

[54] **DIFFUSION TRANSFER PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIALS COMPRISING POLYVINYL ETHER NEUTRALIZING LAYER**

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[21] Appl. No.: **808,876**

[22] Filed: **Jun. 22, 1977**

[30] **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Jul. 2, 1976 [JP] Japan 51-78774

[51] Int. Cl.² **G03C 5/54; G03C 7/00; G03C 1/40; G03C 1/48**

[52] U.S. Cl. **96/76 R; 96/3; 96/29 D; 96/77; 96/119 R; 428/500; 428/522**

[58] Field of Search **96/3, 29 D, 77, 119 R, 96/76 R; 428/500, 522; 526/9, 332**

[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

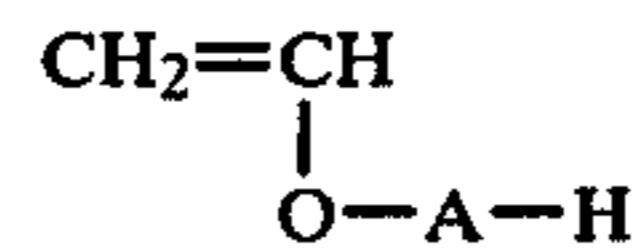
2,373,782 4/1945 Scheiderbauer 526/9
3,880,658 4/1975 Lestina et al. 96/77

Primary Examiner—Richard L. Schilling

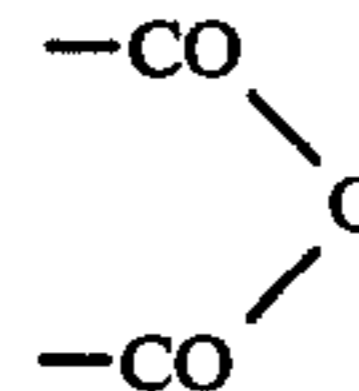
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Bierman & Bierman

[57] **ABSTRACT**

An improved neutralization layer is disclosed for a diffusion transfer photographic material wherein said layer contains a copolymer having a monomer unit represented by the formula



wherein A is a divalent radical selected from the group consisting of an alkylene group, an arylene group and a combination group consisting of at least one alkylene group and at least one arylene group; the alkylene group containing two or more carbon atoms; the alkylene group, the arylene group and the combination group containing at least one —COOR and/or at least one



in which R is hydrogen or an alkyl group.

12 Claims, No Drawings

DIFFUSION TRANSFER PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIALS COMPRISING POLYVINYL ETHER NEUTRALIZING LAYER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to photographic materials for a diffusion transfer process wherein images of metallic silver or dyes are formed by diffusion transfer. More particularly, the invention is concerned with novel photographic materials suitable for use in such the diffusion transfer process (which materials are hereinafter referred to as diffusion transfer photographic materials) in which materials alkalinity, increased in the system when development is carried out, can be substantially decreased without interfering with the formation of diffusion transfer images.

As diffusion transfer photographic materials have been hitherto known silver salt diffusion transfer photographic materials and color diffusion transfer photographic materials.

In silver salt diffusion transfer photographic materials, a light-sensitive silver halide emulsion, after image-wise exposed to light, is developed with an alkaline processing composition. The image-forming substance comprising a silver complex salt formed from the silver halide in the unexposed area by use of a silver halide solvent or a complex forming agent is diffused to a silver-precipitating layer (or an image-receiving element) to give a positive image.

In color diffusion transfer photographic materials, a light-sensitive silver halide emulsion, after imagewise exposed to light, is developed with an alkaline processing composition. Simultaneously, an imagewise distributed image is formed by a color image-forming substance. At least a part of the color image-forming substance is transferred to an image-receiving layer superposed on the emulsion to give a positive image.

Thus, in both silver salt and color diffusion transfer photographic materials, development with an alkaline processing composition is employed for the purpose of the image formation.

In these diffusion transfer photographic materials, however, the presence, after the formation of transfer images, of the alkaline processing composition in the system can cause the diffusion of undesired image-forming substances and contaminate the image-receiving layer. Among attempts to overcome this drawback to obtain excellent images, the use of a layer has been proposed which layer contain a neutralizing agent to stop the development at a desired stage and to lower a pH value less than the one at which the image-forming substance is rendered nondiffusible. Such the layer is hereinafter referred to as "neutralization layer."

The neutralization layer may be provided anywhere in diffusion transfer photographic materials, although it is, in general provided between an image-receiving layer and the support therefor, between a light-sensitive layer and the support therefor, or in a processing sheet. As representatives of the neutralizing agent which can be incorporated into the neutralization layer, there have been disclosed, for example, polymeric acids or low molecular acids in U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,584,030 and 3,362,819. These polymeric acids or low molecular acids, however, have such drawbacks that they cause a distortion of the resulting image, that their capacity for neutralization, after a long storage, is reduced by the influence of moisture and temperature, and that photo-

graphic materials containing them is deformed in shape by such influences. Further, the so-called yellow staining is often observed in the images formed.

Furthermore, the conventional neutralizing agents show poor water-solubility, so that, in coating neutralization layers therewith, the undesirable use of organic solvents toxic to human is required.

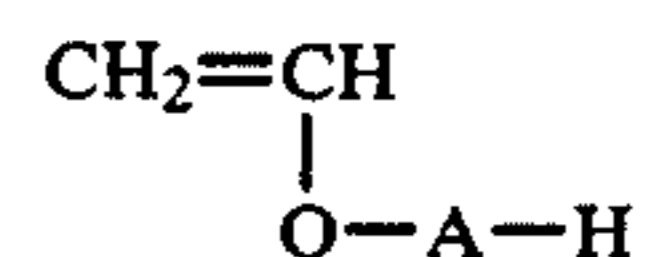
An object of the present invention is to provide a diffusion transfer photographic material having incorporated therein a neutralization layer containing a novel neutralizing agent.

Another object of the invention is to provide a diffusion transfer photographic materials containing a novel neutralizing agent whereby images can be obtained which exhibit excellent storability, high color density and color purity, marked light stability, less staining and no distortion.

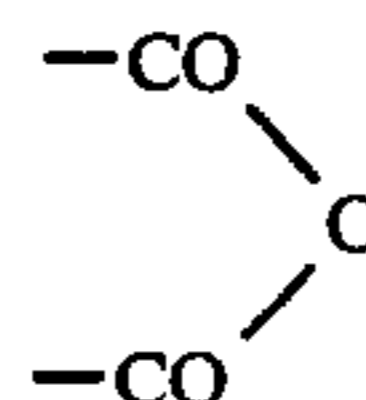
Still another object of the invention is to provide a diffusion transfer photographic material containing a novel neutralizing agent which exhibits proper water-solubility.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

As a result of our extensive studies, we have now found that these objects can be accomplished by using neutralization layers containing polymers each containing, as a monomer unit, a monomer of the general formula:



wherein A is a divalent radical selected from the group consisting of an alkylene group, an arylene group and a combination group of at least one alkylene group and at least one arylene group; the alkylene group having two or more carbon atoms; the alkylene group, the arylene group and the combination group containing at least one —COOR and/or at least one



in which R is hydrogen or an alkyl group which includes substituted alkyl. The at least one alkylene group in the combination group may be substituted or unsubstituted alkylene while the at least one arylene group may be substituted or unsubstituted arylene, provided that at least one of the alkylene and arylene groups is substituted. The polymers as defined above are hereinafter referred to as the "compounds of the invention".

One of the features of the compounds of the invention is in that desired film properties can be obtained by suitably selecting the radical A in the general formula shown above.

The compounds of the invention, i.e. the polymers each containing, as a monomer unit, a monomer of the general formula shown above, may contain other monomer units copolymerizable with the former monomer unit. The molar proportion, in the compounds of the invention, of the monomers of the general formula shown above is preferably 10% or higher, more preferably 20% or higher. The compounds of the invention preferably have average molecular weights of 10,000 - 200,000, more preferably 15,000 - 60,000. The mode of

polymerization for the compounds of the invention is not critical; that is, any mode of polymerization equally serves to achieve the desired effects. As representatives of such other monomer units suitable in the compounds of the invention, there may be mentioned for example 5 unsaturated aliphatic carboxylic acid vinyl esters such as vinyl acetate and vinyl butyrate, acrylates such as methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, methyl α -chloroacrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate and 2-N,N-dime-

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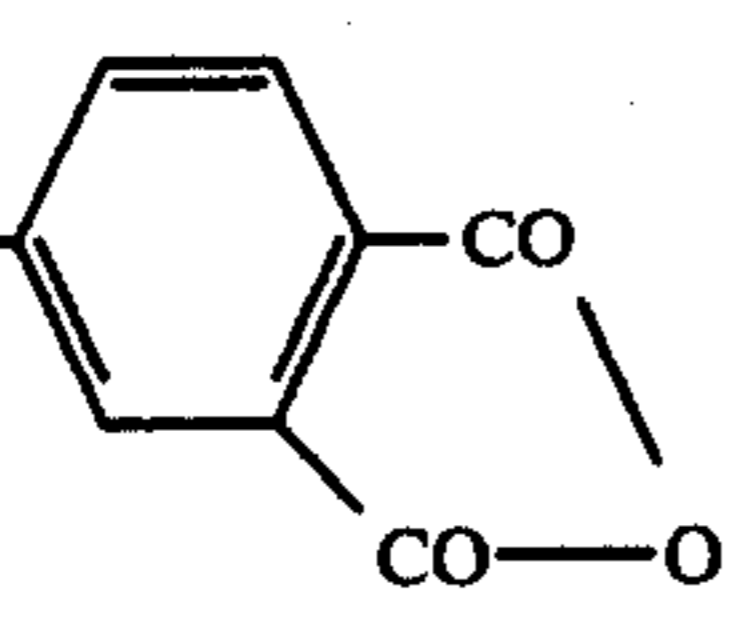
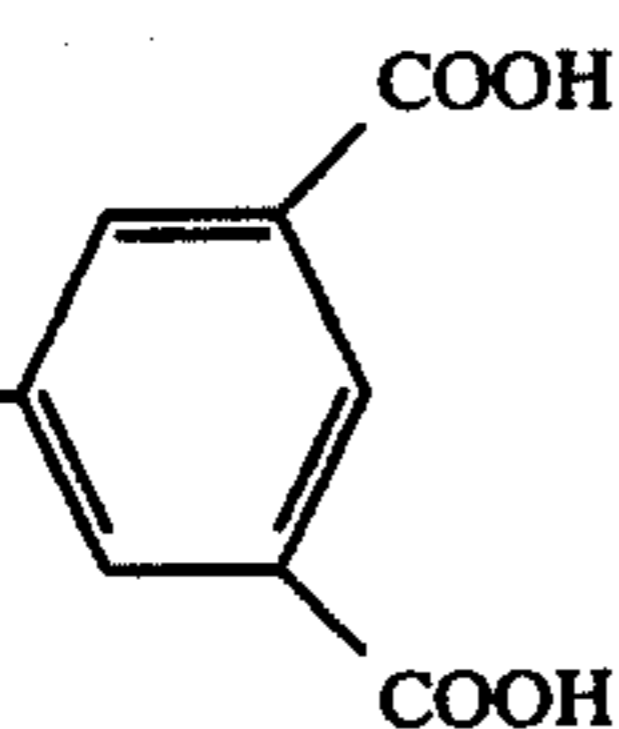
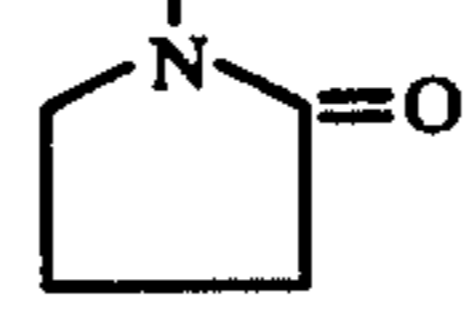
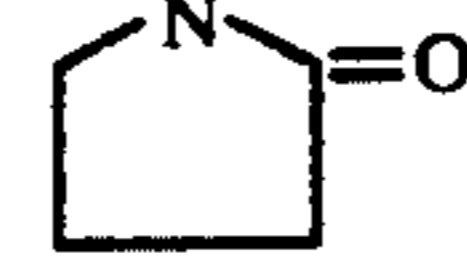
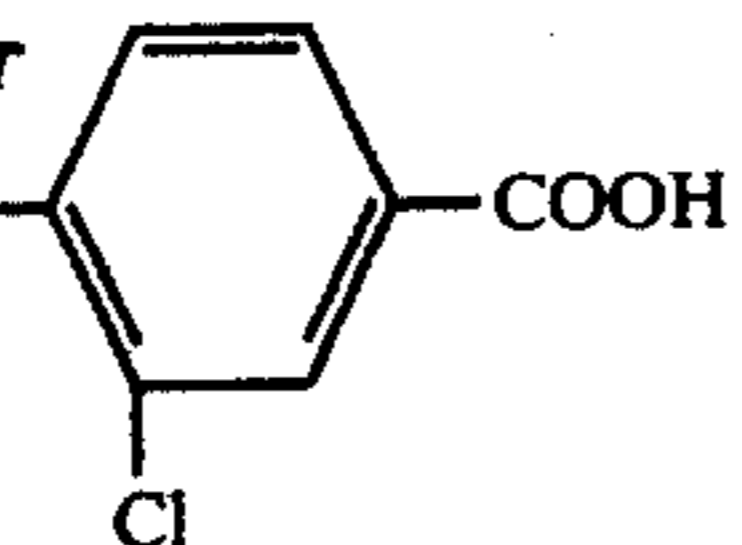
chloride and vinylidene chloride, dienes such as butadiene and isoprene, nitriles such as acrylonitrile methacrylonitrile, aromatic unsaturated hydrocarbons such as styrene and methylstyrene, acrylamides such as acrylamide, methacrylamide, N-methylacrylamide, N,N-dimethylacrylamide and diacetoneacrylamide, vinyl ethers such as vinyl methyl ether and vinyl ethyl ether, and N-vinylpyrrolidone.

In the following are shown representative examples of the compounds of the invention, although the compounds of the invention are not intended to be limited by these. (M.W. is an average molecular weight.)

Exemplified Compound:

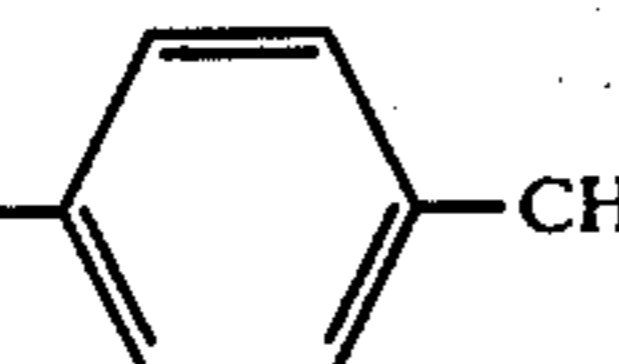
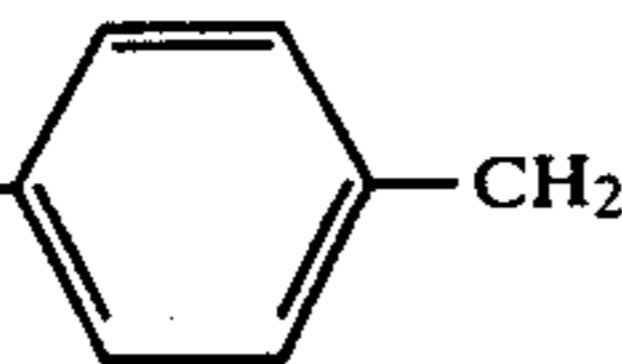
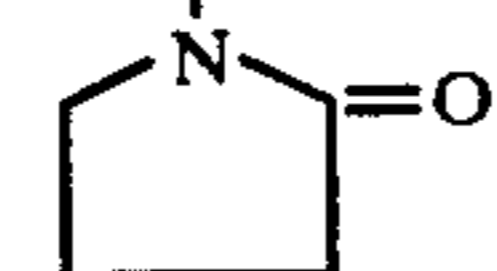
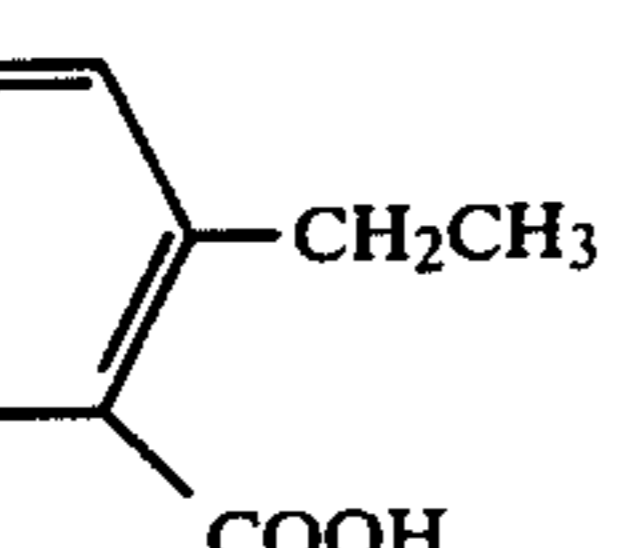
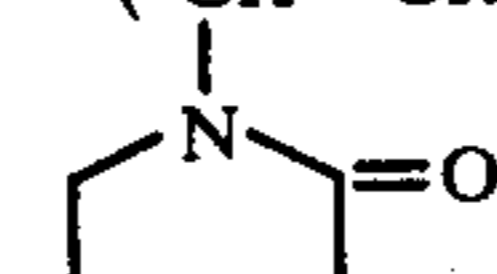
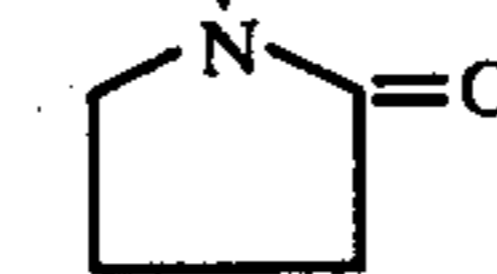
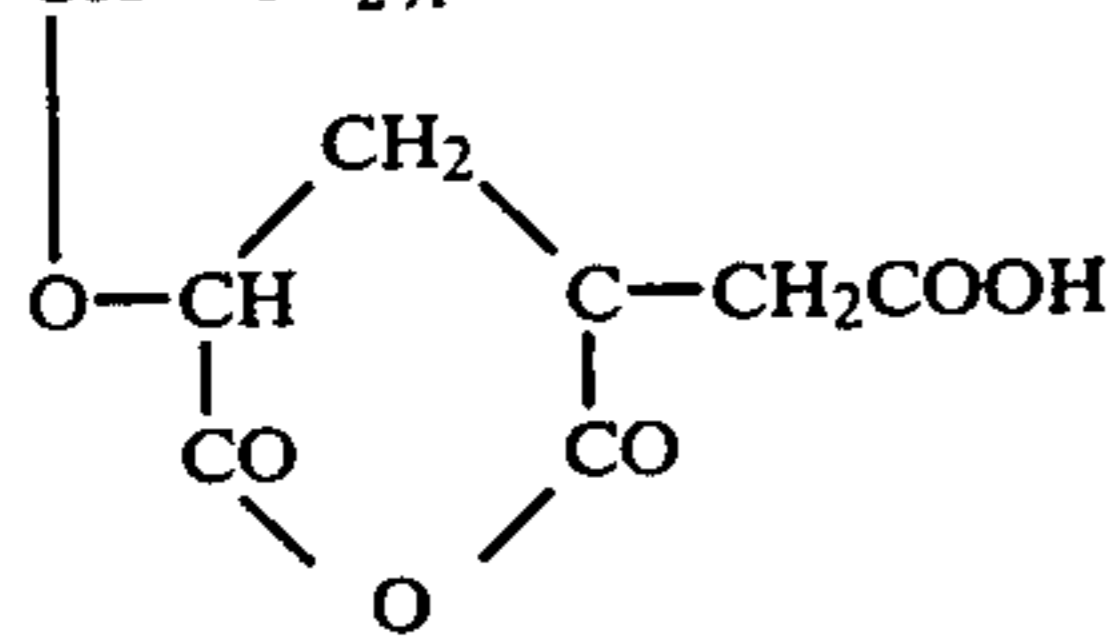
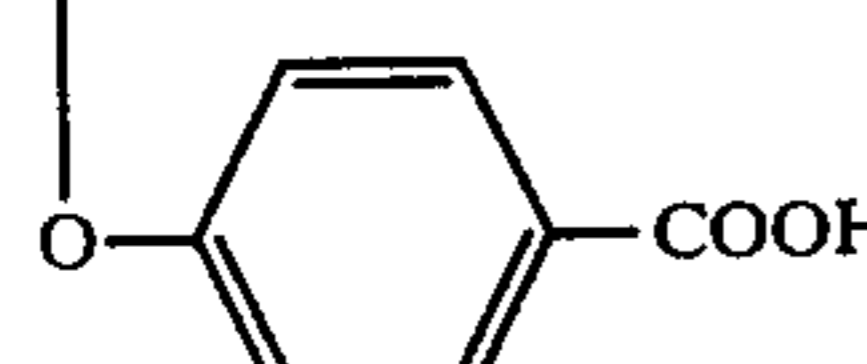
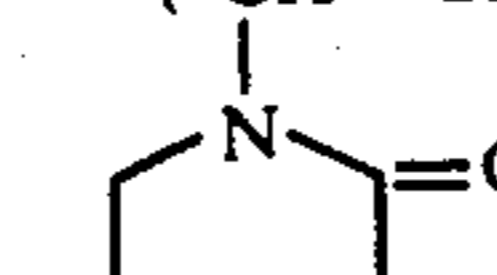
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| (1) $\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \\ \text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{COOH} \end{array} \right\rangle_n$ | $\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \\ \text{OH} \end{array} \right\rangle_m$ | 1:m = 50:50 (M.W. = 50,000) |
| (2) $\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \\ \text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{COOH} \end{array} \right\rangle_n$ | $\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \\ \text{Cl} \end{array} \right\rangle_m$ | 1:m = 60:40 (M.W. = 35,000) |
| (3) $\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \\ \text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{COOH} \end{array} \right\rangle_n$ | $\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \\ \text{OH} \end{array} \right\rangle_m$ | 1:m = 40:60 (M.W. = 60,000) |
| (4) $\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \\ \text{OCH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{COOH} \end{array} \right\rangle_n$ | $\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \\ \text{OH} \end{array} \right\rangle_m$ | 1:m = 40:60 (M.W. = 15,000) |
| (5) $\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \\ \text{OCH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_6\text{COOH} \end{array} \right\rangle_n$ | $\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \\ \text{OH} \end{array} \right\rangle_m$ | 1:m = 40:60 (M.W. = 50,000) |
| (6) $\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \\ \text{OCH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_{19}\text{COOH} \end{array} \right\rangle_n$ | $\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \\ \text{OH} \end{array} \right\rangle_m$ | 1:m = 30:70 (M.W. = 15,000) |
| (7) $\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \\ \text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3 \end{array} \right\rangle_n$ | $\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \\ \text{OH} \end{array} \right\rangle_m$ | 1:m = 50:50 (M.W. = 25,000) |
| (8) $\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \\ \text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{COOH} \end{array} \right\rangle_n$ | $\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \\ \text{C}_6\text{H}_5 \end{array} \right\rangle_m$ | 1:m = 70:30 (M.W. = 16,000) |
| (9) $\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \\ \text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{COOH} \end{array} \right\rangle_n$ | $\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \\ \text{CN} \end{array} \right\rangle_m$ | 1:m = 60:40 (M.W. = 21,000) |
| (10) $\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \\ \text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2-\text{C}_6\text{H}_3(\text{COOH})_2 \end{array} \right\rangle_n$ | $\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \\ \text{OH} \end{array} \right\rangle_m$ | 1:m = 30:70 (M.W. = 15,000) |
| (11) $\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \\ \text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{COOH})_2 \end{array} \right\rangle_n$ | $\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \\ \text{OH} \end{array} \right\rangle_m$ | 1:m = 30:70 (M.W. = 25,000) |
| (12) $\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \\ \text{OCH}(\text{COOH})\text{CH}_2\text{COOH} \end{array} \right\rangle_n$ | $\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \\ \text{OH} \end{array} \right\rangle_m$ | 1:m = 30:70 (M.W. = 50,000) |

Exemplified Compound:

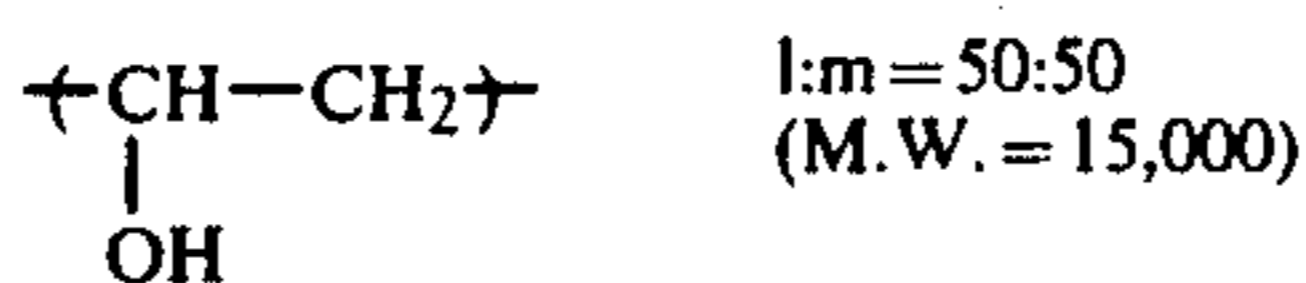
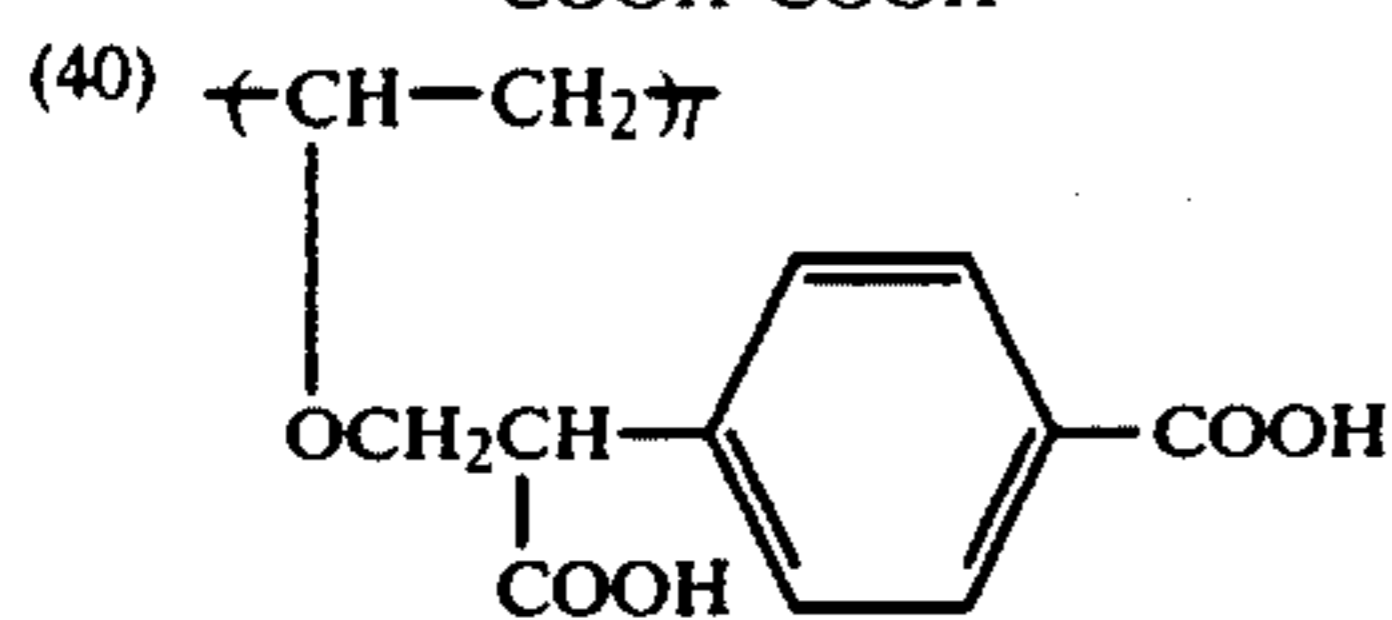
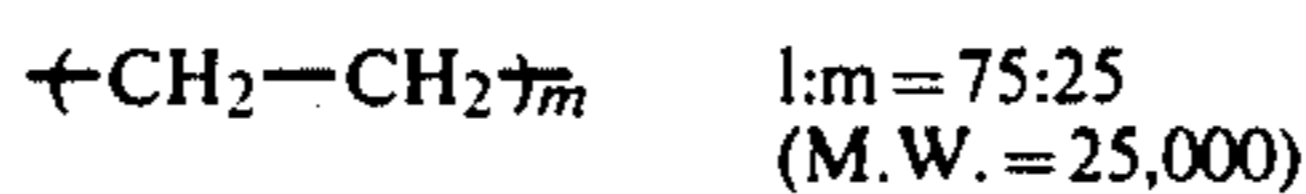
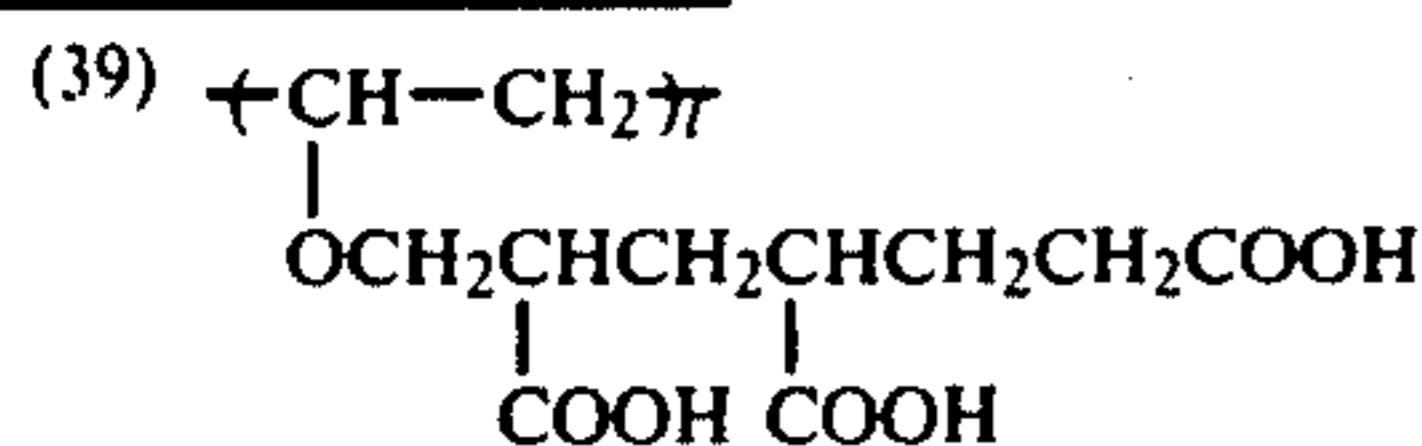
- (13) $\left\langle \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right\rangle_m$  $\left\langle \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right\rangle_m$ $l:m = 30:70$
(M.W. = 15,000)
 $\left\langle \text{OH} \right\rangle_m$
- (14) $\left\langle \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right\rangle_m$ (M.W. = 50,000)
 $\left\langle \text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{COOH} \right\rangle_m$
- (15) $\left\langle \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right\rangle_m$ (M.W. = 35,000)
 $\left\langle \text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2 \right\rangle_m$ 
- (16) $\left\langle \text{CH}_2-\text{CH} \right\rangle_m$ (M.W. = 16,000)
 $\left\langle \text{OCH}_2-\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{COOH} \right\rangle_m$
 $\left\langle \text{COOH} \right\rangle_m$ $\left\langle \text{COOH} \right\rangle_m$
- (17) $\left\langle \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right\rangle_m$ $\left\langle \text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2 \right\rangle_m$ $l:m = 80:20$
 $\left\langle \text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{COOH} \right\rangle_m$ (M.W. = 36,000)
- (18) $\left\langle \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right\rangle_m$ $\left\langle \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right\rangle_m$ $l:m = 50:50$
 $\left\langle \text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{COOH} \right\rangle_m$ $\left\langle \text{COOCH}_3 \right\rangle_m$ (M.W. = 23,000)
- (19) $\left\langle \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right\rangle_m$ $\left\langle \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right\rangle_m$ $l:m = 60:40$
 $\left\langle \text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{COOH} \right\rangle_m$ $\left\langle \text{N}=\text{O} \right\rangle_m$ (M.W. = 23,000)

- (20) $\left\langle \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right\rangle_m$ $\left\langle \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right\rangle_m$ $l:m = 70:30$
 $\left\langle \text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{COOH} \right\rangle_m$ $\left\langle \text{CONH}_2 \right\rangle_m$ (M.W. = 18,000)
- (21) $\left\langle \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right\rangle_m$ $\left\langle \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right\rangle_m$ $\left\langle \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right\rangle_n$
 $\left\langle \text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{COOH} \right\rangle_m$ $\left\langle \text{OH} \right\rangle_m$ $\left\langle \text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CN} \right\rangle_n$
 $l:m:n = 85:5:10$
(M.W. = 31,000)
- (22) $\left\langle \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right\rangle_m$ $\left\langle \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right\rangle_m$ $l:m = 30:70$
 $\left\langle \text{OCH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{COOH} \right\rangle_m$ $\left\langle \text{OH} \right\rangle_m$ (M.W. = 25,000)
- (23) $\left\langle \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right\rangle_m$ $\left\langle \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right\rangle_m$ $l:m = 40:60$
 $\left\langle \text{OCH}_2\text{CH}(\text{Cl})\text{CH}_2\text{COOH} \right\rangle_m$ $\left\langle \text{N}=\text{O} \right\rangle_m$ (M.W. = 50,000)

- (24) $\left\langle \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right\rangle_m$ $\left\langle \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right\rangle_m$ $l:m = 35:65$
 $\left\langle \text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{COOH} \right\rangle_m$ $\left\langle \text{OH} \right\rangle_m$ (M.W. = 15,000)
- (25) $\left\langle \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right\rangle_m$ $\left\langle \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right\rangle_m$ $l:m = 20:80$
 $\left\langle \text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2 \right\rangle_m$  $\left\langle \text{OH} \right\rangle_m$ (M.W. = 45,000)

-continued

Exemplified Compound:

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|------|--|--|--------------------------------|
| (26) | $\left[\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right]_n$ OCH ₂ CH ₂ -COOCH ₂ -  -CH ₃ | $\left[\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right]_m$ OH | l:m = 20:80 (M.W. = 23,000) |
| (27) | $\left[\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right]_n$ OCH ₂ CH ₂ -  -CH ₂ COOH | $\left[\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right]_m$ OH | l:m = 25:75 (M.W. = 60,000) |
| (28) | $\left[\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right]_n$ OCH ₂ CHCOOH Br | $\left[\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right]_m$  | l:m = 40:60 (M.W. = 30,000) |
| (29) | $\left[\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right]_n$ OCH ₂ CH ₂ CHCH ₃ COOH | $\left[\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right]_m$ OH | l:m = 50:50 (M.W. = 33,000) |
| (30) | $\left[\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right]_n$ OCH ₂ -  -CH ₂ CH ₃ COOH | $\left[\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right]_m$  | l:m = 35:65 (M.W. = 50,000) |
| (31) | $\left[\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right]_n$ OCH ₂ CHCOOH OH | $\left[\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right]_m$ CONH ₂ | l:m = 80:20 (M.W. = 31,000) |
| (32) | $\left[\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right]_n$ OCH ₂ CH ₂ COOH | $\left[\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right]_m$ OCH ₃ | l:m = 70:30 (M.W. = 12,000) |
| (33) | $\left[\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right]_n$ OCH ₂ CH ₂ COOH | CH ₃ $\left[\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right]_m$ COOCH ₃ | l:m = 80:20 (M.W. = 55,000) |
| (34) | $\left[\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right]_n$ OCH ₂ CH ₂ COOCH ₂ CH ₂ OH | $\left[\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right]_m$ OH | l:m = 50:50 (M.W. = 60,000) |
| (35) | $\left[\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right]_n$ OCH ₂ CH ₂ COOCH ₂ Cl | $\left[\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right]_m$  | l:m = 60:40 (M.W. = 35,000) |
| (36) | $\left[\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right]_n$ OCH ₂ CH ₂ CH-CH ₂ CO CO \ / O | $\left[\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right]_m$ OH | l:m = 20:80 (M.W. = 60,000) |
| (37) | $\left[\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right]_n$  | $\left[\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2 \right]_m$ | l:m = 90:10 (M.W. = 15,000) |
| (38) | $\left[\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right]_n$ O-  -COOH | $\left[\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \right]_m$  | l:m = 50:50 (M.W. = 30,000) |

Exemplified Compound:



Synthetic examples for some of the compounds of the invention are shown in the following:

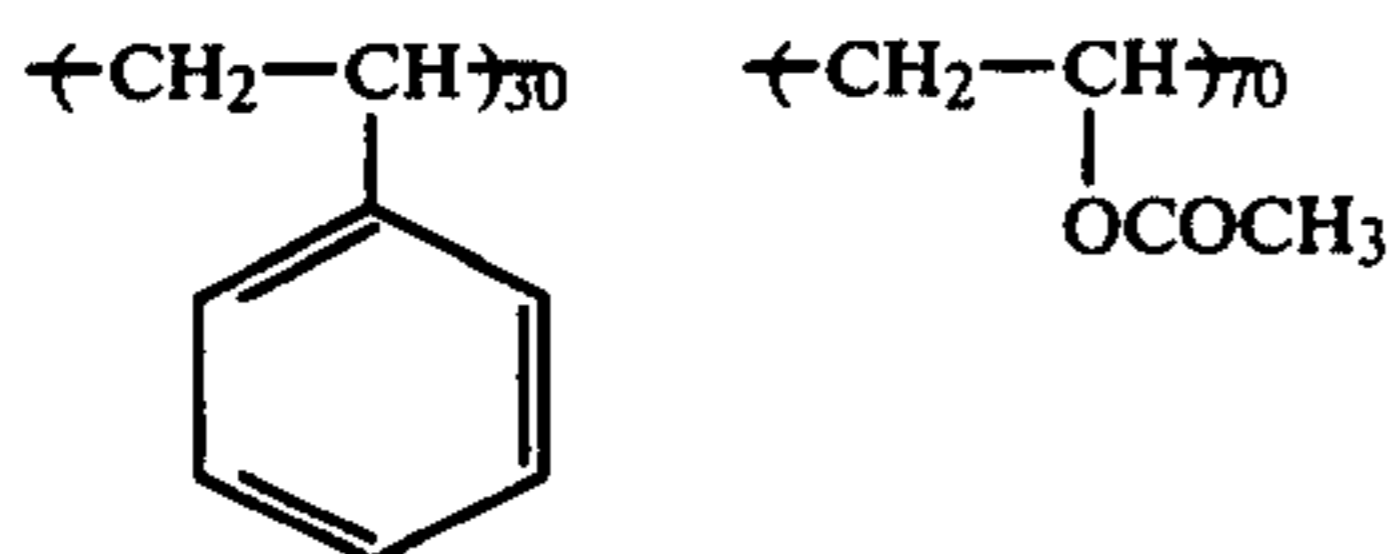
Synthetic Example 1

Synthesis of Compound (14)

To 45 g of polyvinyl alcohol is added 265 g of acrylonitrile and 5 g of 5% sodium hydroxide. The mixture is refluxed under a nitrogen atmosphere for 60 minutes. The resulting mixture is cooled down to room temperature and neutralized with a glacial acetic acid. After the neutralization is completed the reaction mixture is added dropwise into ether to obtain a precipitate. The precipitate thus obtained is dried in vacuum in the presence of phosphorus pentoxide. 10 g of the thoroughly dried reaction product is dissolved in a mixture of 90 ml of acetone and 30 ml of water. Into the resulting solution is added 2 to 3 g of sodium hydroxide. The resulting mixture is refluxed under a nitrogen atmosphere for 15 hours and the reaction mixture is then added dropwise into ether to obtain the desired reaction product. M.W. = 50,000 Synthetic Example 2

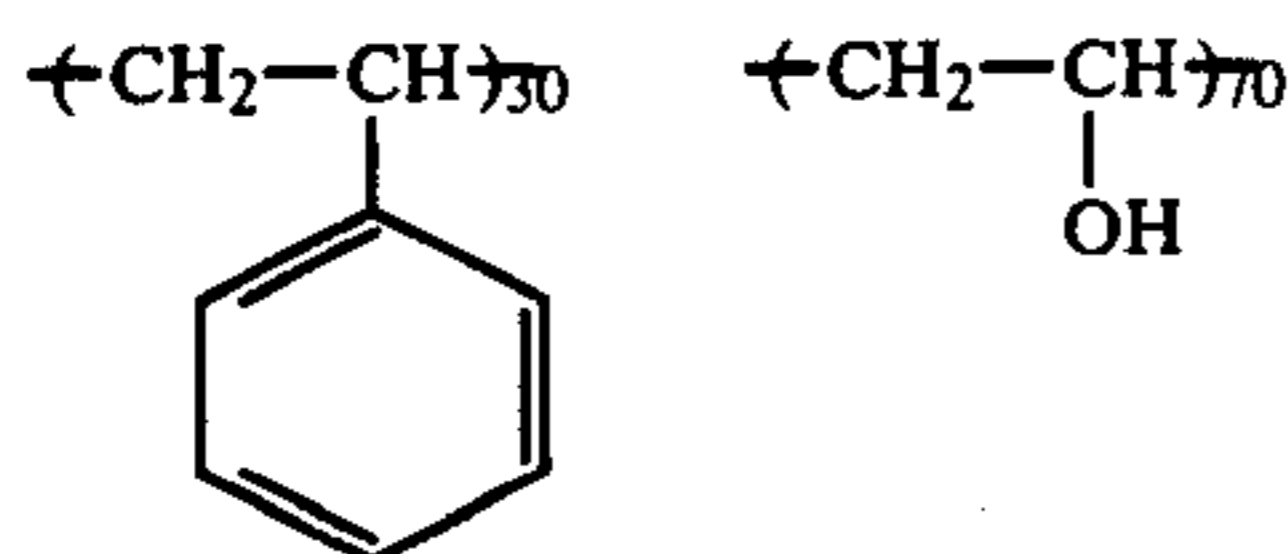
Synthesis of Compound (8)

(1) Synthesis of Compound (a),



72.8 g of styrene and 25.8 g of vinyl acetate are dissolved in 100 g of t-butyl alcohol and 0.5 g of azobisisobutyronitrile (AIBN) is added as polymerization initiator into the solution. The mixture is heated at 65° C under a nitrogen atmosphere for a period of 3 hours. Thereafter, the reaction mixture is added dropwise into water to obtain a precipitate. The precipitate is dried at 70° C for 3 hours in a vacuum heat drier to obtain the desired product, Compound (a).

(2) Synthesis of Compound (b),



Compound (a) is dissolved in methanol. Then a 10% aqueous sodium hydroxide solution is added into the resulting solution and the mixture is heated under reflux for 5 hours. The reaction mixture is cooled down to room temperature and added dropwise into ether to

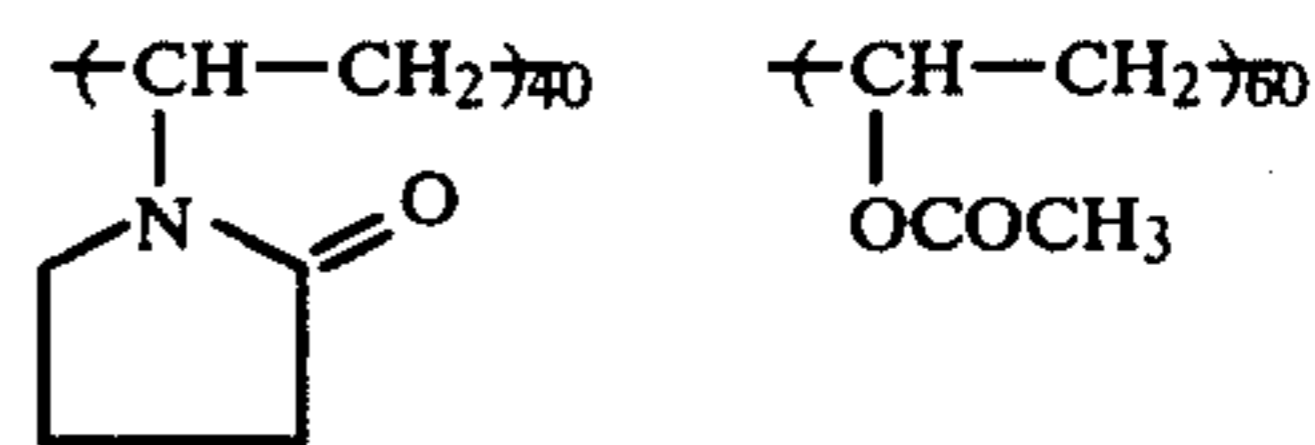
obtain a precipitate. The precipitate is thoroughly dried to obtain the desired product, Compound (b).

(3) Synthesis of Exemplified Compound (8)

The same procedure as in Synthetic Example 1 is repeated except that Compound (b) is used in place of the polyvinyl alcohol, to obtain Compound (8). M.W. = 16,000 Synthetic Example 3

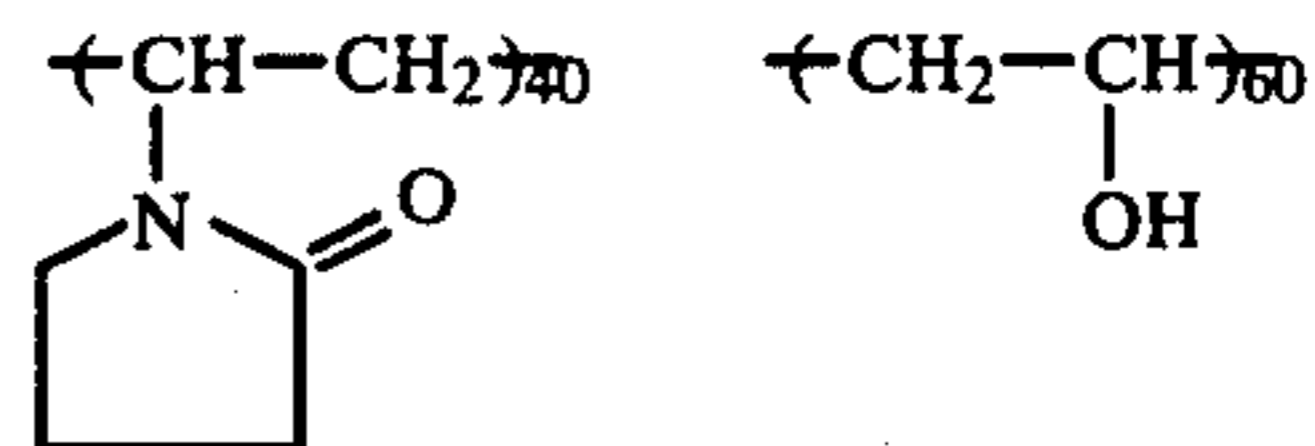
Synthesis of Compound (19)

(1) Synthesis of Compound (c),



46 g of vinyl acetate is added to 60 g of a 60% aqueous vinylpyrrolidone solution and the mixture is stirred under a nitrogen atmosphere for approximately one hour. Thereafter, the polymerization reaction is carried out at 100° C for 10 hours. After the reaction is completed, the reaction product is thoroughly dried to obtain the desired product, Compound (c).

(2) Synthesis of Compound (d),



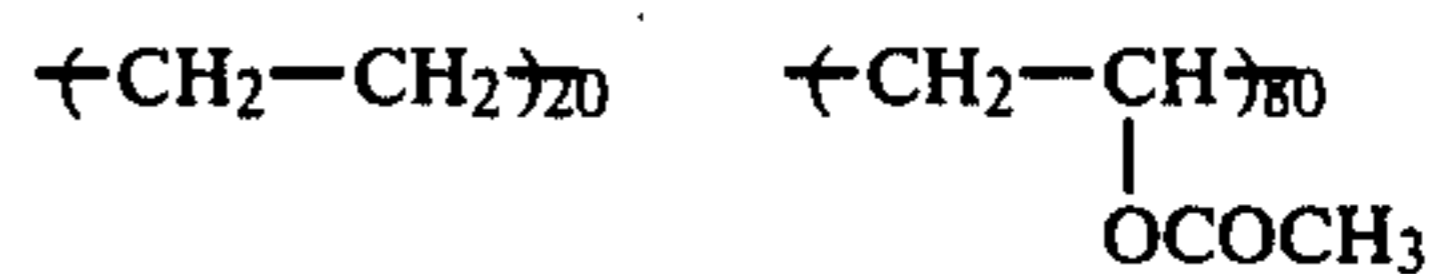
The same procedure as employed for the synthesis of Compound (b) is repeated, except that Compound (c) is used in place of Compound (a), to obtain the desired product, Compound (d).

(3) Synthesis of Compound (19)

The same procedure as in Synthetic Example 1 is repeated except that Compound (d) is used in place of the polyvinyl alcohol, to obtain Compound (19). M.W. = 23,000 Synthetic Example 4

Synthesis of Compound (17)

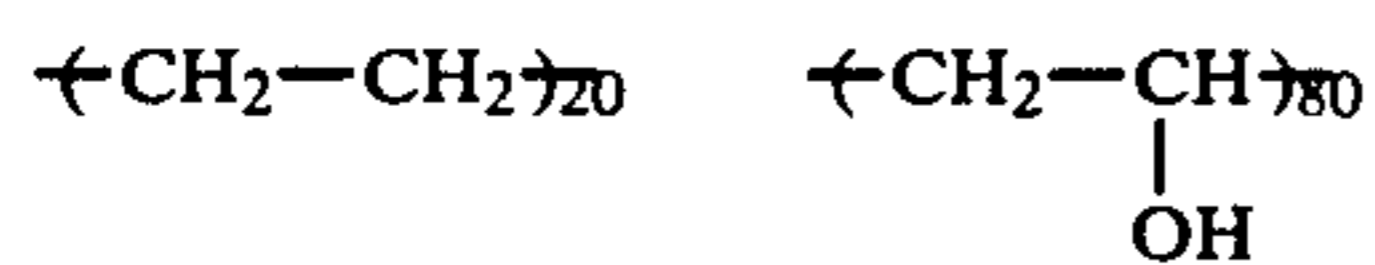
(1) Synthesis of Compound (e),



An autoclave is charged with 40 g of vinyl acetate and 10 g of t-butyl alcohol and then with 0.05 g of AIBN. Thereafter, gaseous nitrogen is blown into the mixture to purge the air. The autoclave is then sealed and gaseous nitrogen is introduced thereto to the internal pressure up to about 10 kg/cm². Thereafter, heating is commenced with stirring, and when the inter-

nal temperature of the autoclave has reached 65° C, ethylene is introduced in such a manner that the ethylene gas pressure reaches 40 kg/cm². After the introduction, the contents are stirred for 3 hours, while kept at a temperature of 65° C. They are then cooled down to room temperature, and unreacted ethylene gas is discharged. The reaction mixture is added into a large amount of water to obtain a precipitate. The precipitate is dissolved in acetone. Water is added to the solution to cause precipitation again.

(2) Synthesis of Compound (f),



The same procedure as employed for the synthesis of Compound (b) is repeated except that Compound (e) is used in place of Compound (b), to obtain the desired product, Compound (f).

(3) Synthesis of Compound (17)

The same procedure as in Synthetic Example 1 is repeated, except that Compound (f) is used in place of the polyvinyl alcohol, to obtain Compound (17). M.W. = 36,000

The compounds of the invention provide diffusion transfer photographic materials by which diffusion transfer images can be obtained which exhibit excellent storability, high color density and purity, no staining and no generation of static electricity.

Although they themselves have a sufficient film-forming property for the purpose of the invention, the compounds of the invention may be employed in combination with any binder for the formation of the neutralization layer, so far as the binder is compatible with the compounds of the invention. As representatives of the binder usable in combination with the compounds of the invention, there may be mentioned for example natural high molecular compounds such as casein gelatin or gelatin derivatives obtained by modification with acylating agents, synthetic high molecular compounds such as polyvinyl alcohol, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose, cellulose acetate, polyvinyl acetate, partial hydrolyzate of polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polymethyl methacrylate, polyethyl methacrylate, polybutyl acrylate, polyethyl acrylate, polyacrylamide, polymethacrylamide, polydiacetoneacrylamide, ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymers and vinyl chloride-vinyl acetate copolymers, and mixtures of these compounds.

The neutralization layer in accordance with the present invention may be provided anywhere in the diffusion transfer photographic material, so far as its neutralization function and formation of diffusion transfer images are not interfered with. However, it preferably is provided between an image-receiving layer and the support for the image-receiving layer as disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,415,644, 3,415,645, 3,415,646 and 3,473,925, between a light-sensitive layer and the support for the light-sensitive layer as disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,573,043 and 3,573,042, in a processing sheet or between an image-receiving layer and the support for the image-receiving layer as disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,594,164 and 3,594,165. Further, when the diffusion transfer photographic material has the layer structure of the type as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 3,615,421, the neutralization layer may be incorporated between a light-sensitive layer and the support for the light-sensitive layer and/or between an image-receiving layer and

the support for the image-receiving layer. Moreover, when the material is of the layer structure suitable for peeling as disclosed in Japanese Laid-Open-to-Public Patent Publication No. 3480/1972, the neutralization layer may be incorporated between an image-receiving layer and the support for the image-receiving layer.

It is desirable that the neutralization layer in accordance with the invention is spaced apart from a layer, in which a processing agent is to be spread, through an interlayer (also called a timing layer). This interlayer serves to prevent the pH value of the processing composition from being lowered by the action of the neutralization layer at a too early stage, in other words, before the development of the silver halide emulsion layer, so that the formation of the diffusion transfer image takes place in the desired manner. Thus, the interlayer so acts as to delay the pH lowering until the desired development and transfer are finished. As materials for the interlayer, there may be used for example, gelatin; polyvinyl alcohol, partially acetalized polyvinyl alcohol and partially hydrolyzed polyvinyl acetate as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 3,362,819; cyanoethylated polyvinyl alcohol as disclosed in U.S. Pat. 3,419,389; hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose and isopropyl cellulose as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 3,433,633; such polyvinylamides as disclosed in Japanese patent publication No. 12,676/1971; such polyvinylamide graft copolymers as disclosed in Japanese Laid-Open-to-Public patent application No. 41,214/1973; and such combinations of latexes and permeating agents as disclosed in Japanese Laid-Open-to-Public patent applications Nos. 22,935/1974 and 91,642/1974. It is also possible to cure the aforementioned polymers used as a timing layer by subjecting them to a cross-linking reaction with aldehydes such as formaldehyde, N-methylol compounds, epoxy compounds or the like. In any cases, the amount of the compound of the invention to be used is preferably 0.1 - 0.3 g per 100 cm² of a diffusion transfer photographic material, more preferably 0.15 - 0.25 g per 100 cm².

Referring now to a light-sensitive element which can be used in the diffusion transfer photographic material using one or more of the compounds of the invention, the element for use in the silver salt diffusion transfer photographic material comprises a silver halide emulsion, and that for use in the color diffusion transfer photographic material comprises a silver halide emulsion and a color image-forming substance. The light-sensitive element as defined above is hereinafter referred to as the "light-sensitive element of the invention" and the diffusion transfer photographic material as defined above as the "diffusion transfer photographic material of the invention".

The silver halide emulsion is a hydrophilic collidal dispersion of silver halide such as silver bromide, silver iodide, silver chloride, silver iodobromide, silver chlorobromide, silver chloriodide, silver chloriodobromide and their mixtures. It may be an emulsion of conventional type or one of those emulsions prepared by various processes, for example, any of the processes for preparing the so-called double jet emulsions, conversion emulsions, Lippmann's emulsions, such direct positive emulsions previously fogged as disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,184,013, 2,456,953, 2,541,472, 2,563,785, 2,861,885 and 3,367,778, British Pat. No. 723,019 and French Pat. No. 1,520,821, and the like. Grain size, content and mixing ration of the silver halides are se-

lected within a wide range according to the kind of a diffusion transfer photographic material to be used. As a hydrophilic protective colloid which is a dispersant for the silver halide, there may be used various natural or synthetized colloid substances, either along or in combination, such as gelatin, gelatin derivatives, polyvinyl alcohol and the like. Such silver halide as explained above can be chemically sensitized by the use of active gelatin; such sulfur sensitizers as allylthiocarbamide, thiourea, cystine and the like; selenium sensitizers; such noble metal sensitizers as gold sensitizer, ruthenium, rhodium and irridium sensitizers, which sensitizers may be used either singly or in appropriate combination. The silver halide may also be chemically sensitized in the manner as described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 1,623,499, 2,399,083, 3,297,446 and 3,297,447. Further, the silver halide emulsion may be optically sensitized, for example, by the use of such cyanine or merocyanine dyes as disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,526,632, 2,503,776, 2,493,748 and 3,384,486. In general, diffusion transfer photographic materials are prepared from three kinds of silver halide emulsions having their respective light-sensitive wavelength regions different from each other.

The silver halide emulsion may also be stabilized by the use of triazoles, tetrazoles, imidazoles, azaindenes, quaternary benzothiazolium compounds, zinc or cadmium compounds, such as those disclosed for example in U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,131,038, 2,403,927, 2,566,263, 2,597,915, 2,694,716, 2,444,605, 2,728,663, 2,839,405, 2,886,437, 3,220,839, 3,236,652, 3,266,897, 3,287,135 and 3,397,987, and British Pat. No. 623,448. The emulsion may also contain a sensitizing compound of quaternary ammonium salt polyethylene glycol or thioether type. The emulsion may also contain such sensitizing compounds as disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,886,437, 2,944,900, 3,046,132 and 3,294,540. The emulsion may further contain suitable plasticizers for gelatin, for example glycerin; dihydroxyalkanes such as 1,5-pentanediol; esters of ethylenebisglycolic acid; bisethoxydiethylene glycolsuccinate; amides of such acids as acrylic acid; or latices. It may also contain gelatin-hardeners such as formaldehyde; halogen-substituted fatty acids such as mucobromic acid; compounds having acid anhydride groups; dicarboxylic acid chlorides; diesters of methanesulfonic acid; sodium bisulfite derivatives of dialdehydes in which the aldehyde groups are spaced apart from each other by 2 to 3 carbon atoms; N-methylol compounds; methylol compounds; epoxy compounds; and aziridine compounds. Further, the emulsion may contain various additives for photographic purposes, for example, a wetting agent such as saponin of a coating aid such as a sulfosuccinate. Still further, the emulsion may contain, if necessary, various additives commonly used in the art of photography, such as antifoggants, ultraviolet absorbers or the like. In addition, the silver halide emulsion may contain an additive for the purpose of supersensitization, for example, ascorbic acid derivatives which do not absorb visible light; azaindene compounds; cadmium compounds; and organic sulfonic acid compounds such as those described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,933,390 and 2,937,089.

In the silver salt diffusion transfer photography applied to the diffusion transfer photographic material of the invention the silver halide in the exposed area is reduced, under the action of the alkaline processing composition, into metallic silver, while the silver halide in the unexposed area is converted into a diffusible silver complex salt by the action of a silver halide sol-

vent or a silver complex salt-forming agent, for example, thiosulfates such as sodium thiosulfate and ammonium thiosulfate, thiocyanides such as sodium thiocyanide and potassium thiocyanide; thioureas and ammonia, and diffuses in this form.

In the color image-forming method applied to the diffusion transfer photographic material of the invention, there may be employed various practical modes which may be diversified from each other according to the manner of releasing a diffusible dye from a color image-forming substance at the time of development of silver halide. Thus, the color image-forming substance may previously contain a chromophore moiety which is perfect per se as a dye moiety, or the substance may contain a moiety which is to be turned into a chromophore moiety at the time of development and/or at any subsequent stage, or necessary components for color formation may be transferred to an image receiving layer where a dye is formed. A first mode, typical of the modes in which a dye is formed in the course of development and/or any subsequent stage, is the so-called dye developer method. The dye developer which is used in the method is a compound containing in the molecule both a chromophore moiety and a moiety having a silver halide developing function. In this method, the dye developer is used as a color image-forming substance and, as a result of oxidation of the dye developer during development of a silver halide image in an alkaline processing composition, the dye developer is turned into a diffusible dye in the composition. The thus oxidized dye developer exhibits lower solubility and diffusibility in the processing composition than the original dye developer, and is fixed in the vicinity of the reduced silver halide. The dye developer preferably is substantially insoluble in acid or neutral aqueous media, but contains at least one radical having such a degree of dissociation that the dye developer becomes soluble and diffusible in alkaline processing compositions. Such a dye developer may be incorporated into a light-sensitive element, in particular into the silver halide emulsion layer or a layer adjacent thereto, and can be used in the form of a negative element comprising a combination of a silver halide emulsion and the dye developer having a spectral absorption property corresponding to the light-sensitive wavelength region of the emulsion. By diffusion transfer from a negative element having at least one thus combined light sensitive unit to an image-receiving element, it becomes possible to obtain a monochromatic or multi-color positive transfer image in a single development processing. Diffusion transfer photographic materials suitable for use in the first mode are disclosed in many patents, for example, British Pat. No. 804,971. As representatives of the dye developer, there may be mentioned for example those disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,983,606, 3,135,605, 3,218,164, 3,255,001, 3,345,163, 3,415,644, 3,421,892, 3,453,107, 3,482,972, 3,551,406, 3,563,739, 3,594,165, and 3,597,200. In the present invention, furthermore, there may be used also hydrolyzable dye developers or shorter-wavelength-shift dye developers obtained by introducing hydrolyzable groups into usual developers. As representatives of these dye developers there may be mentioned for example those compounds disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,196,014, 3,230,082, 3,230,083, 3,230,084, 3,230,085, 3,295,973, 3,307,947, 3,312,682, 3,329,670, 3,336,287, 3,579,334 and 3,826,801 and Japanese patent publications Nos. 379/1961, 12,393/1961 and 2,241/1962. Fur-

ther, in the present invention, there may be advantageously used leuco dye developers obtained by temporarily converting the chromophore moiety of a usual dye developer into a leuco form by means of reduction. As representatives of the leuco dye developer there may be mentioned for example those compounds disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,892,710, 2,909,430, 2,992,105 and 3,320,063 and Japanese Laid-Open-to-Public patent applications Nos. 66,440/1973, 66,441/1973 and 91,324/1975.

A second mode, also typical of the aforementioned various methods, is a process in which the oxidized product of a developing agent formed during development of a silver halide reacts with a color image-forming substance thereby to release a diffusible dye. The process, more particularly, can be classified into three different types A, B and C. In the method of type A is used a non-diffusible substance which is capable of coupling with the oxidized product of a developing agent (the so-called diffusible dye-releasing coupler). Thus, as a result of the coupling reaction, a dye is split off and released which is soluble and diffusible in the alkaline processing composition. The diffusible dye-releasing coupler of the type described above may be the so-called two-equivalent-type coupler which is substituted, at the site of coupling reaction, by a radical which can be split off by the oxidized product of a developing agent. The electron conjugated system in the released dye may be previously incorporated into the coupler or may be formed in the course of the coupling reaction. The coupler of the former type exhibit a spectral absorption property close to that of the released dye. On the other hand, the coupler of the latter type, in principle, has no direct relationship in spectral absorption with the released dye, and it may be a colorless compound or a colored compound. As representatives of the diffusible dye-releasing coupler usable in the method of type A there may be mentioned for example those disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,227,550, 3,765,886 and 3,880,658, British Pat. Nos. 840,731, 904,364, 904,365 and 1,038,331, Japanese patent publication No. 15,471/1970 and Japanese patent applications Nos. 133,879/1975 and 118,440/-1975. In the method of type B is brought about a condensation reaction between an oxidized product of a developing agent and a diffusible dye-releasing coupler. Subsequently to the condensation reaction, an intramolecular ring-closure reaction takes place between the site of reaction and the substituent in the adjacent position thereto in the coupler, with the result that the dye residue contained in the substituent is split off thereby to release a diffusible dye. Thus, for example, an aromatic primary amino developing agent is linked, through an oxidative coupling reaction, to the 4-position of the phenol or aniline nucleus, and subsequently thereto, reacts with the sulfonamido group containing a chromophore moiety in the 3-position of the phenol or aniline nucleus, thus forming an azine ring thereby to release a diffusible dye having a sulfinic acid residue. As representatives of the diffusible dye-releasing coupler usable in the method of type B there may be mentioned for example those disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,443,940 and 3,734,726 and Japanese patent publication No. 32,129/1973. In the method of type C, a color image-forming substance is oxidized by the oxidized product of an auxiliary agent formed upon development to undergo a ring closure reaction, or to undergo a cleavage reaction, thereby releasing, in either case, a diffusible dye. As representatives of the auxiliary

agent which causes the ring closure reaction to occur through oxidation, there may be mentioned for example hydroquinones and 3-pyrazolidones. As representatives of the color imageforming substance usable in the method of this type there may be mentioned for example those disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,245,789, 3,443,939, 3,443,940, 3,698,897, 3,725,062, 3,728,113 and 3,880,658, Belgian Pat. Nos. 796,041 and 796,042 and Japanese Laid-Open-to-Public patent applications Nos. 33,826/1973 and 114,424/1974.

A third typical mode is a process in which a color image-forming substance is used, which substance releases a diffusible dye upon its cleavage in an alkaline solution, but in which the cleavage does not substantially take place when an oxidized developing agent is present in the system. Specific examples of such a color image-forming substance are disclosed for example in Japanese Laid-Open-to-Public patent application No. 111,628/1974.

As a chromophore moiety in the above-mentioned different types of color image-forming substances, there may be used various material such as azo dyes, azomethine dyes, anthraquinone dyes, azine dyes and indophenol dyes. In addition thereto, there may also be used such leuco dyes which are precursors of these dyes mentioned above, for example, as Japanese Laid-Open-to-Public patent applications Nos. 66,440/1973 and 111,628/1974; such shift type dyes, the auxochrome groups of which have been acylated, as disclosed in Japanese patent publication No. 12,393/1961 and Japanese Laid-Open-to-Public patent applications Nos. 111,628/1974 and 115,528/1975; such diazonium compounds as disclosed in Japanese Laid-Open-to-Public patent application No. 10,035/1975; and couplers capable of forming dyes on reaction with the oxidation products of color developing agents.

In the case of the first and third modes, development processing by the use of negative-type silver halide emulsions gives positive diffusion transfer images. In the case of the second mode, on the other hand, development processing by the use of negative type silver halide emulsions gives negative diffusion transfer images. Therefore, a reversing operation becomes necessary in the second mode. For this reason, there are used in this case, for example, direct positive emulsions, that is, such emulsions of internal latent image type as disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,588,982, 2,592,550 and 3,227,552 and such emulsions which have previously been fogged as disclosed in British Pat. Nos. 443,245 and 462,730 and U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,005,837, 2,541,472 and 3,367,778. It is also possible to process, with a silver halide solvent-containing developer, a layer containing a diffusible dye-releasing coupler and physical development nuclei which layer is provided adjacent to the negative type silver halide emulsion layer. Specific examples of such development processing are disclosed for example in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,243,294 and 3,630,731. Furthermore, it is also possible to provide a layer containing both a diffusible dye-releasing coupler and a spontaneously reducible metal salt, adjacent to a negative type silver halide emulsion layer which contains a compound capable of releasing, by reaction with the oxidation product of a developing agent, a development inhibitor such as 1-phenyl-5-mercaptotetrazole (the so-called DIR substance). Specific examples of such a mode are disclosed for example in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,148,062, 3,227,551, 3,227,554, 3,364,022 and 3,701,783 and Japanese patent publications Nos. 21,778/1968 and

49,611,1972. In the present invention, there may be used any combination of negative type silver halide emulsions and color image-forming substances, and there may also be employed any mode of giving negative or positive color images.

The color image-forming substance used in the present invention may be dispersed, in various ways in accordance with the type of the color image-forming substance, in a hydrophilic protective colloid such as gelatin or polyvinyl alcohol which is a carrier for the silver halide emulsion layers or layers adjacent thereto in the light-sensitive element.

Thus, for example, the color image-forming substance used in the present invention is dissolved in an organic solvent used in an amount as small as possible, and the resulting solution is then dispersed in a hydrophilic protective colloid such as gelatin or polyvinyl alcohol which is a carrier for the silver halide emulsion layers or layers adjacent thereto in the light-sensitive element. As the organic solvent for the color image-forming substance, there may be used, either singly or in combination, a high boiling solvent, a low boiling solvent removable by evaporation from the dispersion or a solvent readily miscible with water.

As particularly useful high boiling solvent in the present invention, there may be mentioned N-n-butylacetanilide, diethylaurylamide, dibutylaurylamide, dibutylphthalate, tricresyl phosphate and the like. Useful as low boiling solvents are ethyl acetate, methyl acetate, 4-methylcyclohexanone and the like, and these low boiling solvents may be removed by evaporation at the time of drying after coating layers containing the same, or may be removed, prior to coating, in the manner as described in U.S. Pat. No. 2,801,171. As examples of the organic solvent readily miscible with water there may be mentioned 2-methoxyethanol, dimethylformamide and the like, and these solvents can be removed in the manner as described in U.S. Pat. No. 3,396,027. Various oleophilic polymers may also be usable either in place of or in combination with the high boiling solvents. As such oleophilic polymers as described above there may be used for example polyvinyl acetate, polyacrylates and polyesters obtained from polyhydric alcohols and polybasic acids.

Such methods as disclosed in Japanese patent publications Nos. 13,837/1973 and 32,131/1973, Japanese Laid-Open-to-Public patent application No. 17,637/1975 and U.S. Pat. No. 3,832,173 are useful for the dispersion of color image-forming substances used in the present invention. In the case of color image-forming substances having such water-solubilizing groups as carboxyl or sulfo, the substance is first dissolved in water or in an alkaline aqueous solution and the resulting is dispersed in a hydrophilic protective colloid and, if necessary, the resulting dispersion may be neutralized before use.

Further, it is also possible directly to disperse the color image-forming substance used in the present invention, without the use of high boiling solvents or the like, in such a hydrophilic protective colloid as disclosed in Japanese patent publication No. 32,131/1973 and U.S. Pat. No. 3,832,173.

The amount of the color image-forming substance used in the present invention may be varied within a wide range according to the kind of a compound to be used and the desired results. However, the color image-forming substance is preferably used, for example, in an amount of about 0.5 to about 10% by weight based on

the weight of a water-soluble organic colloid coating liquid to be coated.

In addition, for the purpose of stabilizing the dispersed color image-forming substance, such sulfites as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 3,287,133 may be incorporated into the dispersion.

When it is desired to carry out the tricolor photographic process, interlayers are advantageously used in the light-sensitive element. The interlayer may be made up of gelatin, gelatin derivative and/or hydrophilic polymer such as polyacrylamide, partially hydrolyzed polyvinyl acetate or hydroxypropylcellulose. It may be also be a porous layer formed from a latex of a hydrophilic polymer and a hydrophobic polymer as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 3,625,685. In order to prevent color mixing caused by diffusion of an oxidized product of a developing agent from one layer (wherein the developing agent is oxidized) into other layers, the interlayers are preferably incorporated with couplers, such amidrazone compounds as disclosed in Japanese Laid-Open-to-Public patent application No. 15,532/1973, such hydrazone compounds as disclosed in West German Pat. No. 2,123,268 or the so-called layer interaction-inhibiting agents.

As a support for the light-sensitive element of the present invention, there may be used various materials, for example, paper, glass or films of natural or synthetic polymers such as cellulose nitrate, cellulose acetate, polyvinyl acetal, polystyrene, polyethylene terephthalate, polypropylene or polyethylene, and these materials may be either transparent or opaque according to the end use thereof. In addition, such supports capable of permeating water vapor as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 3,573,044 or support capable of shutting oxygen can be advantageously used as those for the light-sensitive element of the present invention. In case of a light-sensitive element comprising a transparent support, the transparent support may be colored to such an extent that the silver halide emulsion layer on the support may be prevented during the course of processing from light fog which otherwise would be caused by piping of light rays in the support through the edge portion of the support, but that the colored support may not hinder exposure to light of the light-sensitive element and observation of the image formed.

The light-sensitive element as fully described in the foregoing is preferably laid on the top of an imagereceiving element as will be described hereinafter, and is generally processed by spreading an alkaline processing composition as will be mentioned later between the two elements. When, in a color diffusion transfer photographic material, a dye developer is used as a color image-forming substance, there occurs reduction of the silver halide as well as oxidation of the dye developer in the exposed area upon application of an alkaline processing composition, and the oxidized dye developer, due to its low diffusibility in the alkaline processing composition, remains immobilized in the proximity of the reduced silver halide. On the other hand, the unoxidized dye developer is in general insoluble in neutral aqueous solutions, and is soluble and diffusible in the alkaline processing composition. As a consequence, the dye developer in the unexposed area comes to act, per se, as diffusible dye when the alkaline processing composition is applied thereto. (Accordingly, the term "diffusible dye" as used hereinbefore and hereinafter is defined to include diffusible dyes released or formed from color image-forming substances as well as dye

developers which are diffusible in alkali.) When the above-described non-diffusible coupler capable of coupling with an oxidized developing agent is used as a color image-forming substance, a dye soluble and diffusible in an alkaline processing solution is released therefrom either as a result of the coupling reaction of the oxidized developing agent with said coupler which reaction is caused to occur upon application of the alkaline processing composition, or by a ring closing reaction subsequent to the coupling reaction. Further, when a nondiffusible compound which undergoes ring closure on such oxidation as mentioned above or cleaves in an alkaline solution to release, in either case, a diffusible dye is used as a color image-forming substance, there occurs reduction of silver halide as well as oxidation of said color image-forming substance in the exposed area of the lightsensitive element and the oxidized color image-forming substance releases a diffusible dye as a result of the subsequent intramolecular ring closure reaction. Alternatively, an alkaline processing composition is applied to a color image-forming substance in the presence of a silver halide developing agent thereby to oxidize said developing agent. The oxidized developing agent in turn oxidizes the color image-forming substance, and the oxidized color image-forming substance cleaves to release a diffusible dye.

In case where a color-image forming substance which undergoes cleavage in alkali to release a diffusible dye, but which does not substantially undergo such cleavage when an oxidized developing agent is present in the system, is used in a light-sensitive element, a diffusible dye is not formed in the exposed area because the oxidized developing agent resulting from reduction of a silver halide is present in the area, while, in the unexposed area, said color image-forming substance undergoes cleavage with alkali to release a diffusible dye because no oxidized developing agent is not present in said unexposed area.

The image-receiving element which is used to mordant the silver complex salt or the diffusible dye being transferred by diffusion from the light-sensitive element may be appropriately selected according to the object thereof as will be described later.

As a support for the image-receiving element, there may be used, according to the object, various materials, such as those described above as suitable for use as supports for the light-sensitive element. The support for the image-receiving element may also be either transparent or opaque.

The image-receiving element must have indispensably a layer which contains either a silver-precipitating agent or a mordant, that is an image-receiving layer. As silver-precipitating agents or mordants suitable for use in the image-receiving layer in the image-receiving element, there may be used any silver-precipitating agents or mordants so long as they have preferable effects on the silver complex salt or the diffusible dye being diffusion transferred thereto from the light-sensitive element.

As examples of the silver-precipitating agent usable in the silver salt diffusion transfer photographic materials according to the present invention there may be mentioned such silver-precipitating agents, known per se, as, for example, sulfides, selenides, polysulfides, polyselenides, thioureas, heavy metals, heavy metal salts, stannous halides, fogged silver halides, Carey Lea silver, and complex salts of heavy salts with such compounds as thioacetamide, dithiooxamide and dithiobi-

ret. Examples of silver-precipitating agents of the type described above and image-receiving elements containing such silver-precipitating agents are disclosed for example in U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,698,237, 2,698,238, 2,698,245, 2,774,667, 2,823,122, 3,396,018 and 3,369,901. In particularly preferred silver-precipitating agents are for example noble metals, such as silver, gold, platinum and palladium, in the form of colloid. These silver-precipitating agents may be prepared in the presence of a protein colloid and then coated on an image-receiving sheet. The silver-precipitating agents may be formed in the image-receiving layer, or may be applied by either precipitating or depositing by evaporation onto the surface of an image-receiving layer or sheet. It is also possible to incorporate, into an image-receiving layer, the above-described silver-precipitating agents in combination with such colloids or colloidal particles as those of silica, bentonite, diatomaceous earth, finely divided glass, metal oxides such as titanium oxide, colloidal alumina, finely divided aluminum oxide, zirconium oxide, or the like.

When an acid dye or an anionic dye is to be mordanted, there may be mentioned, as mordants usable in the color diffusion transfer photographic materials according to the invention, for example, such polymer of aminoguanidine derivatives of vinyl methyl ketone as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 2,882,156, such poly-4-vinylpyridine as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 3,148,061, such styrene/N-(3-maleimidopropyl)-N,N-dimethyl-N-(4-phenylbenzyl)ammonium chloride polymer as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 3,709,690, such polymer containing a N-substituted maleimide unit as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 3,639,357, and those non-polymeric organic cationic mordants as described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,271,147 and 3,127,148, for example, N-laurylpyridinium bromide, cetyltrimethylammonium bromide, methyl-tri-n-laurylammonium para-toluenesulfonate, methyl-ethylcetylsulfonium iodide or benzyl-toluene phenylphosphonium chloride. In addition to the above-described compounds, compounds containing multi-valent metals such as thorium, aluminum or zirconium, exhibit mordant action on anionic image forming substances. These mordant compounds preferably form film with the aid of film-forming compounds, for example, gelatin, gelatin derivatives such as acid-modified gelatin, polyvinyl alcohol, polyacrylamide, polyvinyl methyl ether, hydroxyethyl cellulose, N-methoxymethylpolyhexylmethyleadipamide or polyvinylpyrrolidone. When the color image-forming substance is one of the components for color formation, such as a diffusible coupler, the image-receiving layer contains the coupling reaction partners, for example, a p-phenylenediamine derivative and an oxidizing agent or a diazonium compound which are to be reacted with said color image-forming substance to form a dye. As image-receiving elements having this type of image-receiving layers there may be used, for example, those described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,647,049, 2,661,293, 2,698,244, 2,698,798, 2,802,735 and 3,676,124 and British Pat. Nos. 1,158,440 and 1,157,507. It is also possible, for the purpose of improving the color tone of the diffusion transferred image, to use a color-toning agent. The color-toning agent may be incorporated into an alkaline processing composition, a silver halide emulsion or into an image-receiving layer or a layer thereon. As such color-toning agent usable in the invention, there may be mentioned, for example, 2-mercaptothiazonine, 2-amino-5-mercapto-1,3,4-thiadiazole, 2-thionoimidazolidine, 2-mercapto-5-methyloxazoline,

2-thionoimidazolineselenotetrazole and such 5-mercaptotetrazoles as disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,295,971 and 2,699,393.

In a special case, furthermore, a mordant can be advantageously incorporated into an alkaline processing solution in the manner as described in Japanese Laid-Open-to-Public patent application No. 47,626/1975. The diffusible dye being transferred by diffusion to an image-receiving element may not be a dye, per se, but a leuco dye or a dye precursor. In such a case, it is advantageous that the image-receiving element is incorporated, for example, with an oxidizing agent, a color developing agent or a diazonium compound in order to convert the leuco dye or the dye precursor into the corresponding dye. Examples of image-receiving elements containing these oxidizing agents, color developing agents or diazonium compounds or the like are shown, for example in U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,647,049, 2,698,798 and 3,676,124, French Pat. Nos. 2,232,776 and 2,232,777 and Japanese Laid-Open-to-Public patent application No. 80,131/1975. It is also possible to use those compounds which are capable of converting the leuco dyes or dye precursors described in the patents specified above. In addition, it is also possible to employ in the diffusion transfer photographic materials of the invention, such a method as disclosed for example in French Pat. Nos. 2,232,776 and 2,232,777 and Japanese Laid-Open-to-Public patent application No. 104,023/1975, in which method an oxidizing agent is made present in an alkaline processing solution.

In addition thereto, the image-receiving element may be incorporated with various additives commonly used in the art of photography, for example, ultraviolet absorbers, fluorescent brightening agents and the like.

Furthermore, it is also possible to provide interlayers between layers such as layers constituting a light-sensitive element or an image-receiving element, a silver halide emulsion layer, a color image-forming substance layer and a mordant layer. These interlayers may be incorporated with various additives commonly used in diffusion transfer photographic materials, in addition to a hydrophilic colloid such as gelatin.

The alkaline processing composition used in the present invention contains ingredients necessary for development of a silver halide emulsion and formation of a diffusible dye, and exhibits a strong alkalinity, in general, of a pH value of 10 or higher. The composition contains hydroxide of alkali metals or alkaline earth metals, such as sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, calcium hydroxide and lithium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, diethylamine or the like. Into the alkaline processing composition may be incorporated an antifogging agent such as benzotriazole. It is also possible to incorporate into the alkaline processing composition such an elution-accelerating agent as disclosed in Japanese Laid-Open-to-Public patent application No. 124,727,1975.

Furthermore, the alkaline processing composition may contain a viscosity-increasing compound, for example, a high molecular viscosity-increasing compound inert to the alkaline solution, such as hydroxyethyl cellulose or sodium carboxymethylcellulose. The concentration of the viscosity-increasing agent is preferably in the range of from about 1 to 5 % by weight based on the weight of the alkaline processing composition. The viscosity-increasing agent used in such concentrations not only imparts a viscosity in the range of from about 100 to 200,000 centipoise to the alkaline processing

composition thereby to facilitate uniform spreading of the alkaline processing composition at the time of processing, but also, in the event that the aqueous solvent is transferred, in the course of processing, to the light-sensitive element and the image-receiving element to concentrate the alkaline processing composition, forms a non-fluid film thereby to aid integration of the processed film unit. The polymer film described just above, after the formation of a diffusion transfer image has been substantially completed, also serves to prevent further transfer of the image-forming component to the image-receiving layer thereby to preclude undesired changes in the image formed. In addition thereto, the alkaline processing composition may be incorporated with a light-absorbing substance such as carbon black for the purpose of preventing the silver halide emulsion from being fogged in the course of processing under the action of external light. It is desirable in the present invention, especially in the case of a color diffusion transfer process of the dye developer type, that into the alkaline processing composition is added an onium compound such as a quaternary ammonium compound. As representatives of preferred examples of the onium compound there may be mentioned 1-benzyl-2-picolinium bromide, 1-(3-bromopropyl)-2-picolinium p-toluenesulfonate, 1-phenethyl-2-picolinium bromide, 2,4-dimethyl-1-phenethylpyridinium bromide, α -picoline- β -naphthoilmethyl bromide, N,N-diethylpiperidinium bromide, phenethyltrimethylphosphonium bromide and dodecyldimethylsulfonium p-toluenesulfonate. In addition to the onium compounds described above, there may also be used onium compounds such as disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,173,786 and 3,411,904.

In the aforementioned second mode of diffusion transfer process in which an oxidized product formed during development of a silver halide reacts with non-diffusible coupler which is a color image-forming substance thereby to release a diffusible dye and to form a color image in the presence of an aromatic amine, the alkaline processing composition used therein contains such a developing agent as an aromatic primary amine. In this mode of process, such additives for alkaline processing compositions as disclosed in Japanese patent publications Nos. 17,184/1966 and 21,778/1968 and Japanese Laid-Open-to-Public patent application No. 325/1972 are useful in the present invention.

Furthermore, the alkaline processing composition may contain a light reflecting agent, for example, titanium dioxide, barium sulfate, zinc oxide, alumina, barium stearate, calcium carbonate, kaolin, magnesium oxide and the like. As method of reflecting light behind the image-receiving layer, there may be employed such methods as disclosed in Japanese Laid-Open-to-Public patent application Nos. 486/1971 and 447/1972. In addition to the light reflecting agent, the alkaline processing composition may contain a fluorescent brightening agent, for example, stilbene, coumarin, triazine, oxazole and the like. The processing composition may also be incorporated with an opacifying agent such as carbon black, and/or with such an indicator dye as disclosed in Japanese Laid-Open-to-Public patent applications Nos. 26/1972, 27/1972 and 28/1972.

It is also possible to incorporate a development inhibitor such as 1-phenyl-5-mercaptotetrazole or benzylaminopurine into any one of the light-sensitive element, image-receiving element or alkaline processing composition. Furthermore, it is advantageous in the

present invention to incorporate an auxiliary developing agent, for example a hydroquinone derivative such as p-tolyhydroquinone, a catechol derivative or Phenidone into any one of the light-sensitive element, image-receiving element or alkaline processing composition. Such auxiliary developing agents as disclosed in Japanese patent publication No. 17,383/1960, U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,939,788, 3,192,044 and 3,462,266, British Pat. No. 1,243,539 and Japanese Laid-Open-to-Public patent application Nos. 40,128/1974, 83,440/1974, 84,238/1974 and 6,340/1975 may be advantageously usable in the present invention. The auxiliary developing agent may be incorporated into the light-sensitive element or image-receiving element according to a procedure similar to that employed in dispersing the color image-forming substance as mentioned above. The auxiliary developing agent may also be incorporated in a homogeneous state into the image-receiving element in the manner as described in Japanese Laid-Open-to-Public patent application No. 131,134/1974. Furthermore, such desensitizing agents as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 3,579,333 may also be employed additionally.

The alkaline processing composition used in the present invention is preferably stored in a rupturable container. In a preferred embodiment, the alkaline processing composition is filled in a cavity formed by folding a sheet made up of a material which does not permit permeation of liquid and air and then sealing the edges, so that the resulting container, when the film unit passes through a pressing device, may undergo a rupture at a predetermined part thereof by the action of an internal pressure applied to the alkaline processing composition contained therein, thereby to release the contents. As materials for forming such containers there may be used for example polyethyleneterephthalate/polyvinyl alcohol/polyethylene laminates, lead foil/vinyl chloride-vinyl acetate copolymer laminates and the like. The container of the type described above is preferably secured along the front edge of the film unit so that the processing composition contained therein may be spread, in a substantially single direction, over the surface of the light-sensitive element. Preferred examples of such containers are shown in U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,543,181, 2,643,886, 2,653,732, 2,723,051, 3,056,491, 3,056,492, 3,152,515 and 3,173,580.

In the present invention, application of the alkaline processing solution can be made while keeping the light-sensitive element which has been imagewise exposed to light and the image-receiving element in a superposed state. As a consequence, in a film unit used in the present invention, the light-sensitive element, before exposure to light, may be present apart from the image-receiving element, or both elements may be combined into a unit. After processing, the light-sensitive element may be kept still combined with the image-receiving element in a unit, or the two elements may be peeled off from each other. Any of such film units as disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,415,644, 3,415,645, 3,415,646, 3,473,925, 3,573,042, 3,573,043, 3,549,164, 3,549,165 and 3,615,421 and Belgian Patents 757,959 and 757,960 may also be usable in the present invention.

In practicing the present invention, as the surface layer for the image-receiving element may be provided a hydrophilic binder layer which contains a hydrophilic colloid, such as gelatin, gelatin derivatives, starch, dextran, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, gum arabic, carboxymethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, polyvinyl alcohol, gual gum or acacia gum. If, after development

treatment, the light-sensitive element is to be peeled off from the image-receiving element to obtain an image, then the so-called delaminating agent is used. The delaminating agent may be present on the surface of the silver halide emulsion layer or on the image-receiving layer containing either a silver-precipitating or a mordant, or may be incorporated into the processing composition. As a suitable delaminating agent is used in general a material having a different composition from that of the binder used in the silver halide emulsion layer. As such materials, there may be mentioned, for example, alkali-permeable polysaccharides, carboxymethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, 4,4'-dihydroxyphenolglucose, saccharose, sorbitol, inositol, resorcinol, phytic acid sodium salt, zinc oxide, particulate polyethylene, particulate polytetrafluoroethylene, such polyvinylpyrrolidone/polyvinyl hydrogen phthalate as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 3,325,283 and such ethylene/maleic anhydride copolymers as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 3,376,137.

Each of the strata constituting the diffusion transfer photographic material of the invention can be formed by applying a coating composition in any one of different ways as will be mentioned later. In the coating composition is contained a surface active agent, for example, saponin, anionic surface active agents, such as alkylarylsulfonic acids of the type disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 2,600,831, such amphoteric surface active agents as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 3,133,816 and such water soluble adducts of glycidol and alkylphenols as disclosed in British Pat. No. 1,022,878.

Furthermore, for the purpose of facilitating the coating operation as mentioned above, the coating composition may contain any one or more of different viscosity-increasing agents. Thus, for example, it preferably contains anionic polymers, for example acrylic acid polymers such as polyacrylamide of high molecular weight, which exhibit their viscosity-increasing activity as a result of an interaction with a polymer in the coating composition to which polymer they can be linked.

In preparing the diffusion transfer photographic material of the invention by means of coating, there may be employed different coating methods, for example, the dip coating method, the air knife method, the curtain coating method, or such an extrusion coating method with the use of a hopper as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 2,681,294. If desired, it is also possible simultaneously to form two or more layers by such coating methods as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 2,761,791 and British Pat. No. 837,095. In addition, such methods of forming silver halide emulsion layers by means of vacuum evaporation as disclosed in British Pat. No. 968,453 and U.S. Pat. No. 3,219,451 are advantageously applicable to the preparation of the diffusion transfer photographic materials of the invention.

Each of the hardenable strata constituting the diffusion transfer photographic material of the invention can be hardened with inorganic or organic hardening agents, used either singly or in appropriate combination.

As hardening agents usable in the present invention, there may be mentioned, for example, aldehydes such as formaldehyde and succinaldehyde, blocked aldehydes, ketones, carboxylic acid derivatives, carbonic acid derivatives, sulfonates, sulfonylhalides, vinylsulfones, active halogenated compounds, epoxy compounds, aziridines, active olefins, isocyanates, carbodiimides, and hardeners with mixed functions.

The present invention is illustrated below with reference to examples, but the invention is not intended to be limited thereto.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

EXAMPLE 1

On a transparent polyethylene terephthalate film base having a film thickness of 100 μ was coated a neutralization layer containing one of the different neutralizing agents mentioned below.

(A) 63 g of ethylene/maleic anhydride copolymer was mixed with 129 g of n-butyl alcohol and 0.2 ml of 85 % phosphoric acid, and the mixture was heated under reflux for 14 hours. Thereafter 200 ml, per 100 ml of the refluxed mixture, of acetone was added to the mixture. The thus obtained coating composition was applied to the film base so that the resulting layer came to have a dry thickness of 23 μ .

(B) A coating composition containing water as solvent and 2:1, in weight ratio, of Compound (1) and gelatin was adjusted to a viscosity of 200 centipoise, and then applied to the film base so that the resulting layer came to have a dry thickness of 23 μ .

(C) A coating composition containing water as solvent and Compound (1) was adjusted to a viscosity of 200 centipoise and then applied to the film base so that the resulting layer came to have a dry thickness of 18 μ .

(D) A coating composition consisting of a water/ethanol solvent mixture containing 2:1, in weight ratio, of Compound (3) and polyvinylpyrrolidone was adjusted to a viscosity of 200 centipoise and then applied to the film base so that the resulting layer came to have a dry thickness of 23 μ .

(E) A coating composition consisting of a water/ethanol solvent mixture containing Compound (3) was adjusted to a viscosity of 200 centipoise and then applied to the film base so that the resulting layer came to have a dry thickness of 19 μ .

(F) A coating composition consisting of Compound (10) dissolved in a water/ethanol solvent mixture was applied to the film base so that the resulting layer came to have a dry thickness of 23 μ .

(G) A coating composition consisting of Compound (11) dissolved in a water/ethanol solvent mixture was applied to the film base so that the resulting layer came to have a dry thickness of 23 μ .

(H) A coating composition consisting of Compound (14) dissolved in water as solvent was applied to the film base so that the resulting layer came to have a dry thickness of 23 μ .

(I) A coating composition consisting of Compound (15) dissolved in a water/ethanol solvent mixture was applied to the film base so that the resulting layer came to have a dry thickness of 23 μ .

(J) A coating composition consisting of Compound (19) dissolved in a water/ethanol solvent mixture was applied to the film base so that the resulting layer came to have a dry thickness of 23 μ .

Subsequently thereto, an interlayer was formed on each of thus obtained neutralization layers (A) through (J) by applying to the latter a latex containing 40 parts by weight of butyl acrylate/diacetone acrylamide/styrene/methacrylic acid (60/30/4/6/) copolymer and 1 part by weight of polyacrylamide so that the resulting layer came to have a dry thickness of 5 μ .

On top of each of the interlayers thus formed is coated an image-receiving layer by applying thereto a

coating composition of the composition described below so that the resulting layer came to have a dry thickness of 6 μ .

Formulation of coating composition for image-receiving layer:

| | |
|--|--------|
| Polyvinyl alcohol | 13 g |
| Water | 340 ml |
| Poly-4-vinylpyridine | 6 g |
| Glacial acetic acid | 3 ml |
| Emalgen 108 (polyoxyethylene lauryl ether) in 2 % aqueous solution | 5 ml |

Thus obtained image-receiving elements (A) through (J) containing neutralization layers (A) through (J), respectively, were allowed to stand at a temperature of 25° C and a relative humidity of 60% for 7 days. Image-receiving element (A) showed a deformation in the coated films and became intransparent, while other image-receiving elements (B) through (J) showed neither of such phenomena.

Transmission percentages of light at 600 m μ was measured with respect to these image-receiving elements and the results are set forth in Table I.

Table I

| Image-receiving element | Transmission (%) |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| (A) | 75.0 |
| (B) | 91.5 |
| (C) | 91.5 |
| (D) | 90.0 |
| (E) | 90.0 |
| (F) | 85.0 |
| (G) | 87.0 |
| (H) | 91.0 |
| (I) | 83.0 |
| (J) | 89.0 |

As can be seen from the results shown in Table I, image-receiving elements (B) through (J) containing the compounds of the invention exhibit higher transmission (%) than image-receiving element (A) containing a neutralizing agent other than the compounds of the invention.

EXAMPLE 2

On a baryta paper support overcoated with a cellulose acetate butyrate layer subbed with gelatin were coated in sequence the following layers to obtain a light-sensitive element.

(1) A silver iodobromide emulsion was applied so that the resulting gelatin light-sensitive layer came to have a dry thickness of 6 μ and contain 1.6 g/m² of silver.

(2) Gelatin was applied at a gelatin coverage of 1.5 g/m².

The thus obtained light-sensitive element was exposed to light through optical wedges.

Separately, Solution A and Solution B of the respective compositions mentioned below were mixed together to give a coating composition. The resulting coating composition was applied to the interlayer in each of the image-receiving elements (A), (B), (E) and (H) prepared in Example 1 but before the coating of the image-receiving layer so that the resulting layer came to have a wet thickness of 50 μ , thereby to obtain image-receiving elements (K), (L), (M) and (N), respectively.

| | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|-------|
| Solution A: | Snowtex (colloid silica) | 50 ml |
|-------------|--------------------------|-------|

-continued

| | | |
|-------------|--|--------|
| Solution B: | 0.1 N aqueous sodium sulfide solution | 0.5 ml |
| | 0.1 N aqueous cadmium acetate solution | 3 ml |
| | Aerosol OT (sodium di-2-ethylhexyl sulfosuccinic acid) in 1 % aqueous solution | 2 ml |
| | Water | 20 ml |

The following alkaline processing composition was used:

The following alkaline processing composition was used:

| | |
|--|--------|
| Alkaline processing composition: | |
| Water | 100 ml |
| Sodium sulfite | 5.8 g |
| Carboxymethyl cellulose | 5.8 g |
| Sodium hydroxide | 2.7 g |
| Sodium thiosulfate | 3.3 g |
| Hydroquinone | 5.0 g |
| Metol | 1.8 g |
| Emasol 1130 (polyoxyethylene sorbitan alkyl ester from Kao Soap Co., Ltd.) | 5 ml |

A processing pod in which the above-described alkaline processing composition was contained was placed between the aforementioned exposed light-sensitive element and the aforementioned image-receiving element but outside an image area. The resulting stack was pressed by means of a press roller so that the pod was ruptured so as to effect a development treatment. Sixty seconds after the development treatment at room temperature, the light-sensitive element and the image-receiving element were peeled off from each other. After the thus separated image-receiving element was allowed to stand at a temperature of 25° C and a relative humidity of 60% for 7 days, the maximum density (D_{max}) and the minimum density (D_{min}) of the image formed on the element were measured. The results were as shown in Table II.

Table II

| Image-receiving element | D_{max} | D_{min} |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| (K) | 1.52 | 0.41 |
| (L) | 1.73 | 0.10 |
| (M) | 1.70 | 0.09 |
| (N) | 1.82 | 0.10 |

Image-receiving element (K) showed a lower D_{max} value and a higher D_{min} value as can be seen from the results shown in Table II, and the image obtained thereon exhibited a distortion. In contrast thereto, image-receiving elements (L) through (N) containing the compounds of the invention showed higher D_{max} values and lower D_{min} values; besides the images obtained thereon were sharp, exhibiting no distortion.

EXAMPLE 3

A light-sensitive element was prepared by coating the following layers, in sequence, on an acetylcellulose film base subbed on the surface with gelatin.

(1) Cyan dye developer layer

1,4-bis(α -methyl- β -hydroquinonyethylamino)-5,8-dihydroxyanthraquinone was dissolved in a mixture of N-n-butylacetanilide and 4-methylcyclohexanone and the resulting solution was emulsified by dispersing it in an aqueous gelatin solution containing Alkanol B as dispersing agent. The thus obtained emulsified dye de-

veloper dispersion was coated on the film base at a gelatin coverage of 4.2 g/m² and a cyan dye developer coverage of 2.0 g/m².

(2) Red-sensitive emulsion layer

A red-sensitive silver iodobromide emulsion was coated on the cyan dye developer layer at a silver coverage of 0.6 g/m² and a gelatin coverage of 2.4 g/m².

(3) Interlayer

An interlayer was coated on the red-sensitive emulsion layer by applying gelatin thereto at a gelatin coverage of 2.0 g/m².

(4) Magenta dye developer layer

2-(p-(β -hydroquinonyethyl)phenylazo)-4-n-propoxy-1-naphthol was dissolved in a mixture of N-n-butylacetanilide and 4-methylcyclohexanone and the resulting solution was dispersed in an aqueous gelatin solution containing Alkanol B as dispersing agent. The thus obtained emulsified dye developer dispersion was coated on the interlayer at a coverage of 2.8 g of gelatin per square meter and 1.3 g of the magenta dye developer per square meter.

(5) Green-sensitive emulsion layer

A green-sensitive silver iodobromide emulsion layer was coated on the magenta dye developer layer at a silver coverage of 1.2 g/m² and a gelatin coverage of 1.2 g/m².

(6) Interlayer

An interlayer was coated on the green-sensitive emulsion layer by applying gelatin thereto at a gelatin coverage of 1.5 g/m².

(7) Yellow dye developer layer

1-Phenyl-3-N-n-hexylcarboxamide-4-[(p-2',5'-dihydroxyphenyl)phenylazo]-5-pyrazolone was dissolved in a mixture of N,N-diethylauramide and the resulting solution was dispersed in an aqueous gelatin solution containing Alkanol B as dispersing agent. The thus obtained emulsified dye developer dispersion was coated on the interlayer at a coverage of 1.1 g of silver per square meter and 0.5 g of the yellow dye developer per square meter.

(8) Blue-sensitive emulsion layer

A blue-sensitive silver iodobromide emulsion was coated on the yellow dye developer layer at a silver coverage of 0.6 g/m² and a gelatin coverage of 0.6 g/m².

(9) Protective layer

4'-Methylphenylhydroquinone was dissolved in N,N-diethylauramide and the resulting solution was emulsified by dispersing it in an aqueous gelatin solution containing Alkanol B as dispersing agent to prepare a coating liquid. Into 100 ml of the coating liquid was incorporated 5 ml of a 2% mucochloric acid and the resulting mixture was coated on the blue-sensitive emulsion layer at a coverage of 0.5 g of the 4'-methylphenylhydroquinone per square meter and 0.6 g of gelatin per square meter.

The following alkaline processing composition was used:

| Alkaline processing composition: | |
|---|--------|
| Water | 100 ml |
| Potassium hydroxide | 11.2 g |
| Carboxymethyl cellulose | 5 g |
| Benzotriazole | 7.0 g |
| N-phenethyl- α -picolinium bromide | 2.0 g |
| Benzylaminopurine | 0.12 g |
| Titanium dioxide | 50 g |

A processing pod in which the above-described alkaline processing composition was contained was placed between the aforementioned light-sensitive element and one of the image-receiving elements (A) through (J) but outside the image area of the light sensitive element, and the resulting stack was exposed to light through an optical wedge and then pressed by means of a press roller so that the pod was ruptured so as to effect development treatment. The thus processed photographic element was allowed to stand at a temperature of 25° C a relative humidity of 60% for 7 days. Thereafter, the maximum density (D_{max}) and minimum density (D_{min}) of each of the dye images obtained, i.e. cyan (C), magenta (M) and yellow (Y), were measured by the use of red, green and blue filters, respectively. The results obtained were as shown in Table III.

Table III

| Image-receiving element | D_{max} | | | D_{min} | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|---------|--------|-----------|---------|--------|
| | Cyan | Magenta | Yellow | Cyan | Magenta | Yellow |
| (A) | 1.85 | 1.81 | 1.60 | 0.21 | 0.33 | 0.45 |
| (B) | 2.10 | 1.97 | 1.90 | 0.08 | 0.13 | 0.27 |
| (C) | 2.09 | 1.98 | 1.92 | 0.09 | 0.14 | 0.20 |
| (D) | 2.05 | 1.99 | 1.96 | 0.10 | 0.15 | 0.29 |
| (E) | 2.03 | 1.98 | 1.93 | 0.11 | 0.14 | 0.27 |
| (F) | 2.09 | 1.97 | 1.89 | 0.09 | 0.15 | 0.19 |
| (G) | 2.08 | 2.01 | 1.90 | 0.10 | 0.13 | 0.21 |
| (H) | 2.05 | 2.00 | 1.97 | 0.08 | 0.15 | 0.23 |
| (I) | 2.06 | 1.98 | 1.92 | 0.09 | 0.15 | 0.22 |
| (J) | 2.07 | 1.96 | 1.94 | 0.11 | 0.16 | 0.22 |

As can be seen from the results shown in Table III, image-receiving element (A) showed a lower D_{max} value and a higher D_{min} value and besides, the dye image obtained thereon exhibited a distortion. In contrast thereto, image-receiving elements (B) through (J) containing the compounds of the invention showed higher D_{max} values and lower D_{min} values and besides, the dye images obtained thereon were sharp, exhibiting no distortion. Furthermore, yellow staining was observed in image-receiving element (A), but not in image-receiving elements (B) through (J).

EXAMPLE 4

A light-sensitive element was prepared by coating the following layers, in sequence, on an acetylcellulose film base subbed on the surface with gelatin.

(1) On the subbed film base were coated a green-sensitive silver bromide emulsion at a silver coverage of 1.0 g/m² and a gelatin coverage of 2.6 g/m² and a potassium neutral salt of 1-phenyl-3-(3,5-disulfobenzamido)-4-(6-hydroxy-4-pentadecylphenylazo)-5-pyrazolone at a coverage of 0.8 g/m².

(2) Gelatin was coated thereon at a coverage of 2.0 g/m².

On each of the neutralization layers (A), (C), (E), (I) and (H) used in Example 1 and on a transparent polyethylene terephthalate film having a thickness of 100 μ were coated in sequence the following layers to prepare

image-receiving elements (O), (P), (Q), (R) and (S), respectively.

(1) Light reflecting layer

A light reflecting layer was coated on the neutralization layer at a coverage of 30 g of titanium oxide per square meter and 3 g of gelatin per square meter.

(2) Image-receiving layer

An image-receiving layer was coated on the light reflecting layer at a coverage of 5 g of gelatin per square meter and 2 g of octadecyltributylammonium bromide per square meter.

(3) Protective layer

A protective layer was coated on the image-receiving layer at a gelatin coverage of 0.6 g/m².

The following alkaline processing composition was used:

| Alkaline processing composition: | |
|--|--------|
| 4-Amino-N-ethyl-N- β -hydroxyethyl-aniline hydrochloride | 3 g |
| Hydroxyethyl cellulose | 3.2 g |
| Piperidinohexose reductone | 0.08 g |
| Sodium hydroxide | 3 g |

A processing pod in which the above-described alkaline processing composition was contained was placed between the aforementioned light-sensitive element and image-receiving element but outside an image area. The resulting stack was pressed by means of a press roller so that the processing pod was ruptured so as to effect development treatment. Three minutes after the development treatment, the light-sensitive element and the image-receiving element were peeled off from each other. After the thus separated image-receiving element was allowed to stand at a temperature of 50° C and a relative humidity of 80% for 3 days, the maximum density and minimum density of the image formed thereon were measured. The results were as shown in Table IV.

Table IV

| Image-receiving element | D_{max} | D_{min} |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| (O) | 1.23 | 0.38 |
| (P) | 1.48 | 0.15 |
| (Q) | 1.54 | 0.15 |
| (R) | 1.49 | 0.13 |
| (S) | 1.48 | 0.12 |

Image-receiving element (O) showed a lower D_{max} value and a higher D_{min} value and besides, the dye image obtained thereon exhibited a distortion. In contrast thereto, image-receiving elements (P) through (S) containing the compounds of the invention showed higher D_{max} values and lower D_{min} values and besides the dye images obtained thereon were sharp, exhibiting no distortion.

EXAMPLE 5

To the interlayer in each of the image-receiving elements (A), (C), (E), (I) and (H) prepared in Example 1 but before coating the image-receiving layer, were applied the following layers, in sequence, to prepare photographic elements (A), (B), (C), (D) and (E).

(1) Image-receiving layer

Polyvinylbenzyltrimethylammonium chloride and polyvinyl alcohol (Gosenol NH -26, manufactured by Nippon Gosei Kagaku Kogyo) were coated on the interlayer at coverages of 2 g/m² and 4 g/m², respectively.

(2) Light reflecting layer

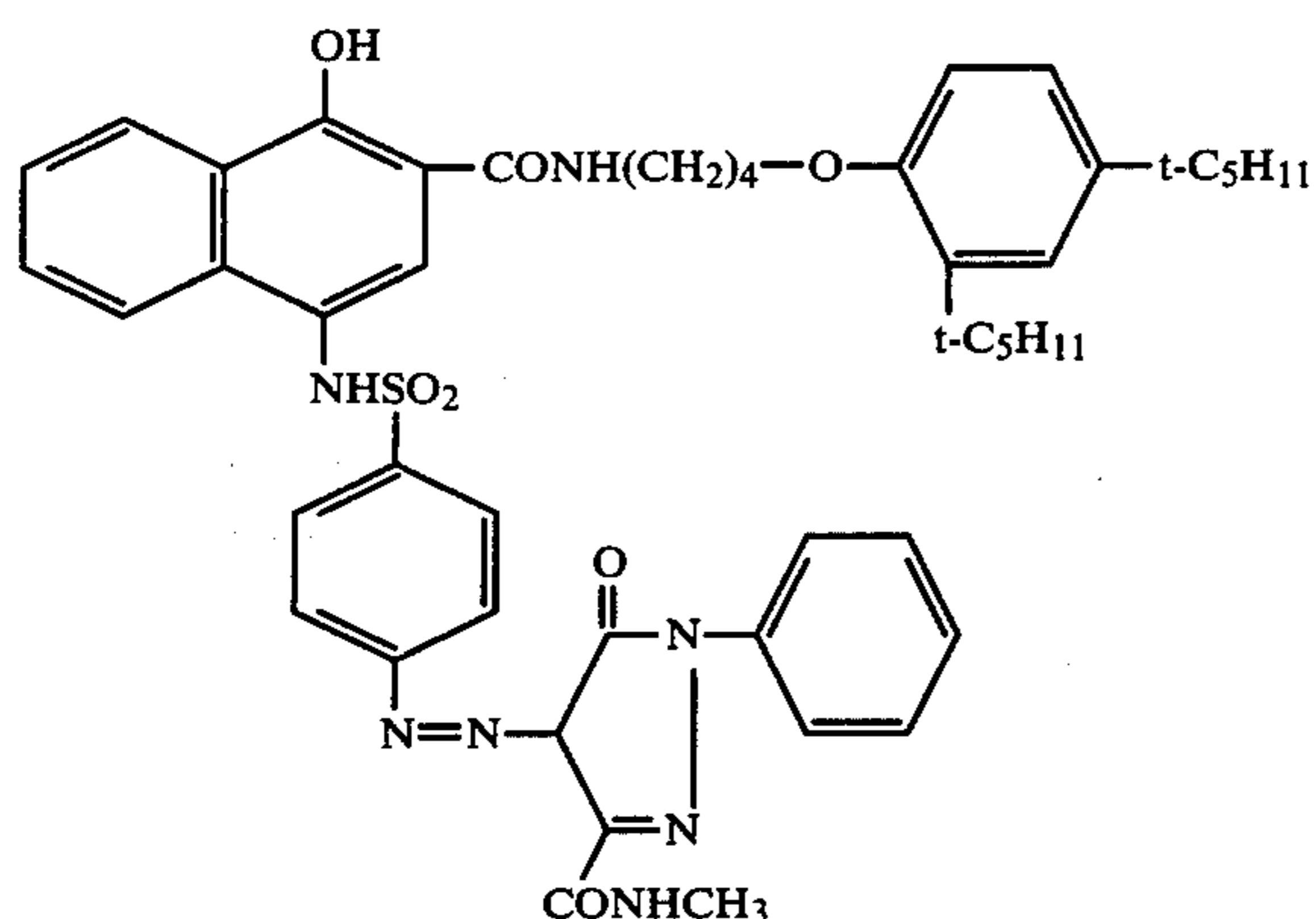
A light reflecting layer was coated on the image-receiving layer by applying thereto titanium dioxide and gelatin at coverages of 20 g/m² and 2 g/m², respectively.

(3) Opacifying layer

An opacifying layer was coated on the light reflecting layer by applying thereto gelatin and carbon black at coverages of 2 g/m² and 2 g/m², respectively.

(4) Layer containing yellow dye image-forming substance

A layer containing a yellow dye image-forming substance of the structural formula shown below was coated on the opacifying layer by applying thereto the substance and gelatin at coverages of 1 g/m² and 1 g/m², respectively.



(5) Blue-sensitive emulsion layer

A blue-sensitive emulsion layer was coated on the layer containing the yellow dye image-forming substance by applying thereto a blue-sensitive silver iodobromide emulsion at a silver coverage of 0.6 g/m² and a gelatin coverage of 0.6 g/m².

(6) Protective layer

A protective layer was coated on the blue-sensitive emulsion layer by applying thereto gelatin at a coverage of 0.5 g/m².

As a cover sheet on the protective layer was used a transparent polyethylene terephthalate film base.

The following alkaline processing composition was used:

| Alkaline processing composition: | |
|--|-------|
| Hydroxyethyl cellulose | 2.5 g |
| Sodium hydroxide | 6.0 g |
| 4-Hydroxymethyl-4-methyl-1-phenyl-3-pyrazolidone | 0.8 g |
| Potassium iodide | 1 g |
| 5-Methylbenzotriazole | 80 mg |
| t-Butylhydroquinone | 80 mg |
| Sodium sulfate | 0.2 g |

-continued

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| Carbon black | 4 g |
| Water | 100 ml |

A processing pod in which the alkaline processing composition was contained was placed between the aforementioned photographic element and cover sheet but outside an image area. The resulting stack was exposed to light and then pressed by means of a press roller so that the processing pod was ruptured so as to effect a development treatment. After the thus processed photographic element with a color image formed thereon was stored at a temperature of 50° C and a relative humidity of 80% for 3 days, the maximum density and the minimum density were measured. The results were as shown in Table V.

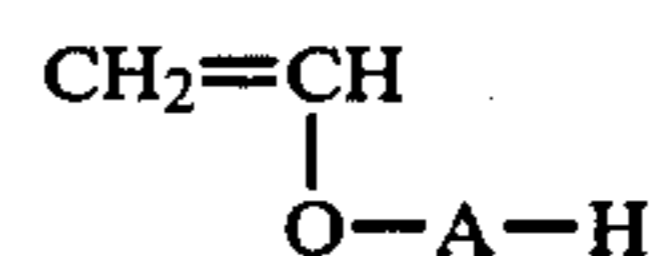
Table V

| Photographic element | D_{max} | D_{min} |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| (A) | 1.32 | 0.37 |
| (B) | 1.50 | 0.15 |
| (C) | 1.51 | 0.13 |
| (D) | 1.54 | 0.10 |
| (E) | 1.53 | 0.15 |

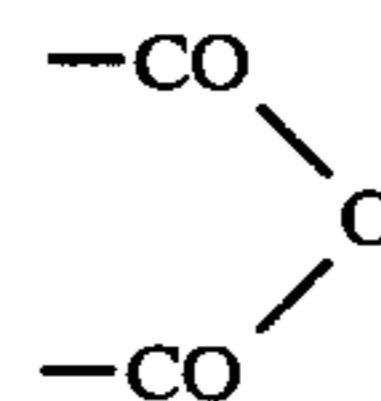
Photographic element (A) showed a lower D_{max} value and a D_{min} value and besides the dye image formed exhibited a distortion. In contrast thereto, photographic elements (B) through (E) containing the compounds of the invention showed higher D_{max} values and lower D_{min} values, and besides, the dye images obtained were sharp, exhibiting no distortion.

What is claimed is:

1. In a diffusion transfer photographic material having a support and thereon a neutralization layer for lowering a pH value increased by application of an alkaline processing composition, the improvement which comprises the neutralization layer comprising a copolymer containing, as a monomer unit, a monomer of the general formula:



wherein A is a divalent radical selected from the group consisting of an alkylene group, an arylene group and a combination group consisting of at least one alkylene group and at least one arylene group; the alkylene group containing two or more carbon atoms; the alkylene group, the arylene group and the combination group containing at least one -COOR and/or at least one



in which R is hydrogen or an alkyl group.

2. A diffusion transfer photographic material as claimed in claim 1 wherein the alkyl group for R is unsubstituted alkyl.

3. A diffusion transfer photographic material as claimed in claim 1 wherein the alkylene group, the arylene group or the combination group for A contains one -COOR.

4. A diffusion transfer photographic material as claimed in claim 1 wherein the alkylene group for A is an alkylene group having 2 to 8 carbon atoms.

5. A diffusion transfer photographic material as claimed in claim 1 wherein the alkyl group for R is of 1 to 8 carbon atoms.

6. A diffusion transfer photographic material as claimed in claim 1 wherein the at least one alkylene group for the combination group is of 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

7. A diffusion transfer photographic material as claimed in claim 1 wherein the copolymer contains the monomer in an amount of 10% or more in the molar proportion.

8. A diffusion transfer photographic material as claimed in claim 1 wherein the amount of the copolymer in the photographic material is 0.1 - 0.3 g per 100 cm² of the photographic material

9. A diffusion transfer photographic material as claimed in claim 1 wherein the photographic material comprises a transparent support, a receiving layer, a

light-sensitive silver halide emulsion layer and a transparent cover sheet in this order, the photographic material comprising the neutralization layer between the emulsion layer and the cover sheet.

10. A diffusion transfer photographic material as claimed in claim 9 wherein the photographic material further comprises a timing layer between the neutralization layer and the emulsion layer.

11. A diffusion transfer photographic material as claimed in claim 1 wherein the photographic material comprises, in turn, a transparent support, a receiving layer, a light-sensitive silver halide emulsion layer and a transparent cover sheet, the photographic material comprising the neutralization layer between the support and the receiving layer.

12. A diffusion transfer photographic material as claimed in claim 11 wherein the photographic material further comprises a timing layer between the neutralization layer and the receiving layer.

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